

simon fraser
student society

2017-2018

Annual Report

09/24/18

["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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Letter from the Board of Directors

Dear Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Members,

This annual report is a presentation of the key activities, results and accomplishments that the Society achieved over the last fiscal year. The dedication and support of our membership, staff and volunteers made 2017/2018 a very successful year for the Simon Fraser Student Society. We would like to thank you all for supporting us in delivering the promise of our core mandate, which is to improve the Academic, Financial, Social and Health and Well Being of all undergraduate students.

Our policies, by-laws, and staffing practices all contribute to making the SFSS a governing organization where elected student representatives are effectively able to set the direction of the Society. Our dedicated staff contributes to our Society by managing the day-to-day operations of our organization and ensuring that our membership has easy access to the many services we offer.

The year 2017 marked 50 years of services for the Simon Fraser Student Society. Our organization has steadily evolved since its inception, and we continue to promote student feedback and contributions that ultimately drive our organization. We hope that the next 50 years will shape us further to better improve the student experience at Simon Fraser University.

The 2017/2018 Board oversaw one of the most important agreements in our Society's history. In April 2018, the Board of Directors unanimously approved an agreement which will allow the SFSS to provide a broad range of services and support for students attending Fraser International College (FIC). This agreement begins in January 2019 and will help FIC students, who are an important part of our campus, feel connected to the SFSS community. The SFSS hopes that this agreement, and other similar Society initiatives, will continue to reflect our values of inclusion, integrity, empowerment, advocacy and community.

In closing, the Board would like to thank you all for giving us the opportunity to serve our undergraduate community. We are grateful to have your support, and we look forward to continuing to improve our Society this year.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

Introduction

About the Simon Fraser Student Society

The Simon Fraser Student Society exists to improve the academic, financial, social and health and well being of all 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.



SFSS Board of Directors



**2017 -
2018**

2017-2018 SFSS Board of Directors



Hangue Kim
President



Prab Bassi
VP External Relations



Jimmy Dhesa
VP Student Services



Baljinder Bains
VP Finance



Alam Khehra
VP Student Life



Erwin Kwok
VP University Relations



Jeffrey Leung
Applied Sciences Rep



Jackson Freedman
Arts & Social Sciences Rep



Gini Kuo
Business Rep



Juvina Silvestre
Communications, Art, &
Technology Rep



Jamie Zhu
Education Rep



Yun Oh
Environment Rep



Aarushi Sharma
Health Science Rep



Parham Elmi
Sciences Rep



Raajan Garcha
At-Large Rep



Jas Randhawa
At-Large Rep

SFSS Board of Directors



**2018 -
2019**

2018-2019 Board of Directors



Jas Randhawa
President



Jasdeep Gill
VP External Relations



Samer Rihani
VP Student Services



Matthew Chow
VP Finance



Tawanda Masawi
VP Student Life



Jackson Freedman
VP University Relations



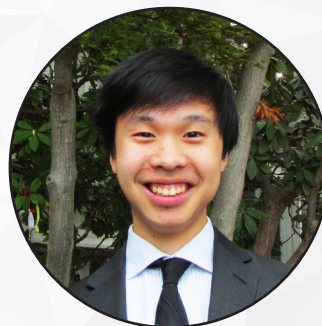
Kia Mirsalehi
Applied Sciences Rep



Jessica Nguyen
Business Rep



Amrita Mohar
Communications, Art, &
Technology Rep



Cameron Nakatsu
Education Rep



Russell Dunsford
Environment Rep



Christine Loutsik
Health Science Rep



Natasha Birdi
Sciences Rep



Mohammed Ali
At-Large Rep

2017-2018 Service Highlights

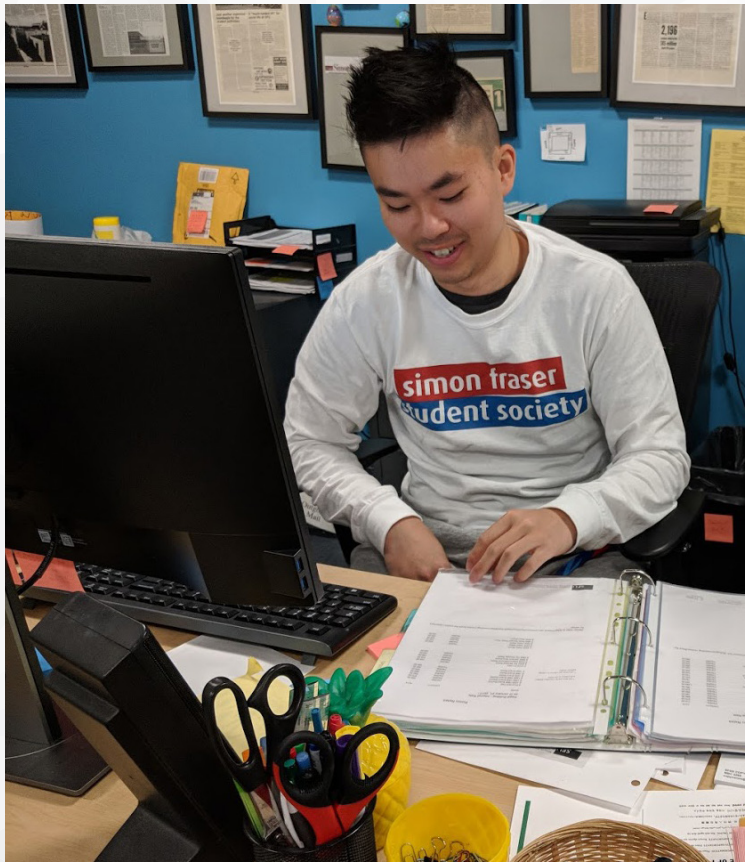


SFSS Student Centre

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, Emergency Food Voucher program.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Many new and unique Clubs, total now numbering over 280
- Arrival of Canvas courses in support of Clubs
- Grant increase: Over 880 grants
- Total club support: Over \$220 000
- Arrival of an Event Coordinator as a resource for groups
- 3 great Clubs Days
- Winter Fair was another hit with the community



Student Union Building & Stadium

Construction continued on the long-awaited student union building (SUB). At over 100,000 square feet, the \$55 million SUB will provide space for social gathering, studying, lounging, activities, celebrating, and enhancing the student experience at SFU. In early 2018, the Board of Directors approved the design for the stadium. The facility will be built at Terry Fox Field and will be funded in part by a \$10 million contribution from students.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Over 60 student groups expressed interest in being allocated office space in the SUB
- The Board of Directors decided to allocate office space to clubs and student unions rather than external groups
- Concrete was poured for all five floors of the SUB and significant interior work took place on the first three floors
- Students were invited to use a virtual reality (VR) model of the SUB in anticipation of the opening of the new building

Student Union Resource Office

The SFSS Student Union Department educates and supports the 50+ currently active student unions. We offer resources for event and project planning and ensure that the executives are engaging their members.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Canvas course launched to Student Union Executives on October 30th, 2017
- 110 grants and 115 Travel and conference applications submitted



SFSS Surrey Office

The SFSS Surrey office provides access to all SFSS services as well as information, space, equipment, and convenient resources at the SFU Surrey campus. The Member Services Coordinator - Surrey offers dedicated support for the Surrey Campus Committee and other student groups.

2017-2018 Highlights

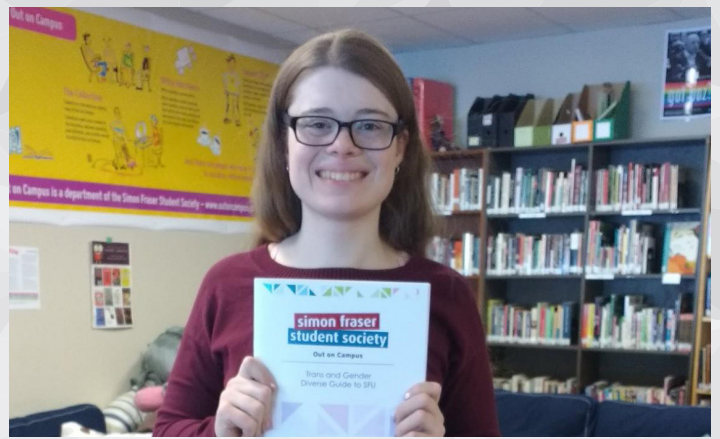
- Surrey Clubs and Unions Days helped to showcase student activities and engagement opportunities during the summer, fall, and spring semesters
- The Surrey Campus Committee organized a large spring Pub Night, as well as many many other social events throughout the year
- The SFSS advocated to secure significant space improvements, to be implemented during the coming year
- Over 1300 room bookings were processed for student groups on campus

Women's Centre

The Women's Centre provides services to students of all genders, including a free feminist library (no fines!), free safer sex and menstrual supplies, food, a diverse programming all year round and a 24/7 safer space for self-identified women, including a full kitchen!

2017-2018 Highlights

- Participated in our first panel as part of the summit Brave New Work at SFU Harbour Centre: Making Visible the Invisible, the intersectionality of invisible labor with the support of the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, the Labour Studies Centre and the West Coast Domestic Workers' Association
- Developed a new program, ARThrive, a creative space to support survivors of sexualized violence and trauma in support with the Health & Counselling Department.
- The Collective revitalized our perennial programs in collaboration with Creative Collective from the Health and Counselling Department: De-Stress Days, and Crafternoons and initiated the following events: Ice Cream Socials and Community Kitchens in collaboration with Embark sustainability
- Collaborated with the SFSS Board to support our famous Open House and Pancake Breakfast in February 2018



Out on Campus

Out on Campus acts as the central gathering point for all things LGBATQ+ on campus. The OOC space provides a number of supports and services for students, while also functioning as a place for events, education, and advocacy. OOC is committed to maintaining a safe and inclusive space while also doing the work to ensure that the SFU campus as a whole is committed to honoring the needs of our most marginalized students.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Held our annual event to honor Trans people during the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Hosted a screening of three documentary films about the lives of trans folks and the ongoing struggle for their safety, respect, and justice in collaboration with the SFSS Women's Centre
- Participated in the "Crisis on Campus?" A Public Dialogue, which centered on mental health services on post-secondary campuses
- Collaborated with the SFSS Women's Centre in our annual Spring Book Sale
- Developed a Mental Health Workshop series, which focused on the various aspects that can affect people's mental health such as food, sleep, exercise, art, etc.
- Developed de-stress and social programs such as Crafternoons and Board Game afternoons
- Hosted our first Working Queer workshop to help LGBATQ+ students learn to navigate the unique challenges of being queer in the workforce

Campaigns, Research, and Policy

The role of the Office of the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator (CRPC) is to provide support in the areas of organisational governance, operational processes and procedures, and advocacy and lobbying campaigns. Additionally, the office of the CRPC coordinates research initiatives that inform the design and implementation of the strategic initiatives in those areas.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Revised the standards and the implementation for the delivery of the SFSS member registry by SFU.
- Development and maintenance of SFSS member mail lists for core Society communications, including Society electoral ballots and general membership survey
- Coordinated staff support to the Independent Electoral Commission in the administration of the SFSS General Elections
- Development of a complete set of Standard Operating Procedures for staff departments
- Development of basic standards for the submission, processing, and evaluation of Accessibility Grant requests
- Facilitation Board of Directors, Board committee, and Independent Electoral Commission orientations sessions
- Review of Student Society Fee standards and definitions to ensure coherence with new Societies Act and Societies Act Regulations



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.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Supported Women's Centre in its rebranding initiative
- Redeveloped the sfss.ca website
- Conducted the Annual General Membership Survey with the best response to date with 3,485 responses
- Selected a vendor to help us develop a more interactive platform for Clubs and DSUs to manage their activities
- Started working with the Student Centre staff to make Clubs Days a larger scale event.

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.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Increase in requests for banners and large format posters from SFSS clubs, Student Unions, and Faculties during the past year
- Continued support to provide hands-on assistance for undergraduate students who require basic shortcut layout assistance with school assignments and co-op positions



Events

The SFSS Events office acts as a liaison between student groups and SFU representatives. It also provides assistance to the Board of Directors, Clubs, Student Unions and internal departments in all event planning matters, including developing risk assessment plans, budget considerations and logistics.

2017-2018 Highlights

- Hosted the SFSS Board of Directors Elections Debate in Convocation Mall (for the first time)
- Promoted on-campus social activities with approximately 8,000 students during Carnivals, Week of Welcome, Pancake Breakfasts, Mental health workshop, BBQ, etc.
- Hosted 2017-2018 Pub Nights at the Highland Pub, providing a safe social space for approximately 1,900 students

2017-2018 Committee Highlights



Governance Committee

The governance committee is responsible for strengthening the governance structure of the SFSS in order to enhance process and increase capacity of the working of the student society.

During the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year:

- Created a template for a committee transition plan to help future board members adjust to their positions
- Added a policy regarding in-camera items and putting limits on when they can be used to increase meeting transparency
- Added a policy to clarify process for advocating and lobbying on behalf of students to help improve its success and efficiency
- Held multiple events with DSUs and Clubs to get important feedback that is necessary to the improvement of member groups
- Updated numerous governance policies in the SFSS Board Policies to ensure they are up to date and relevant

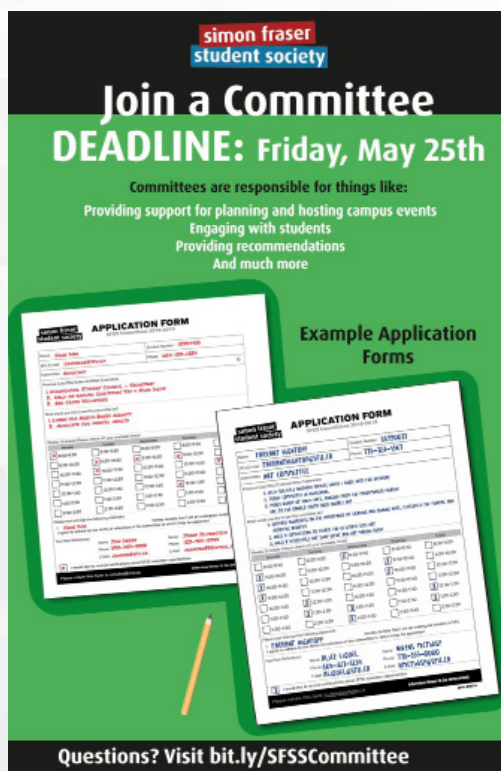


Finance & Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee focused on budget reallocations, budget consultations, overseeing the audit, maintaining financial controls and reviewing financial reports. For a full review of the 2017-18 fiscal year, please refer to the audited Financial Statements.

During the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year:

- Created a new budget allocation policy to standardize policy and procedure
- Established a new set of internal controls for usage of the SFSS credit card
- Worked with Tompkins Wozny LLP during the audit
- Held in-person budget consultations to consult members on allocated resources
- Increased disclosure of past financial reports, including fund reports, financial statements and a consolidated budget

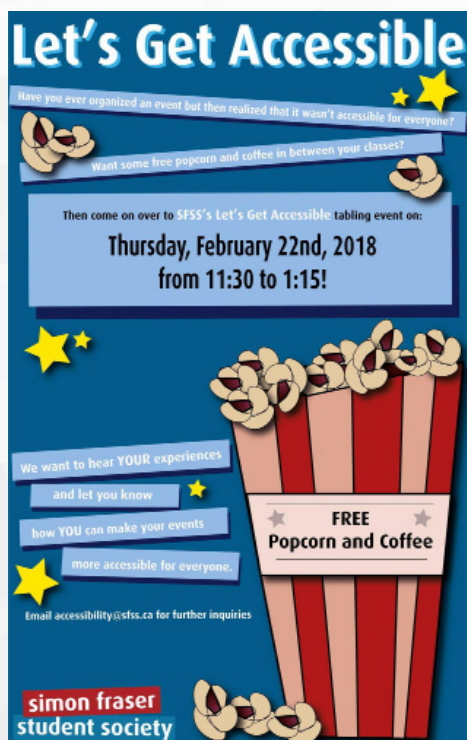


Accessibility Fund Committee

The accessibility fund committee is responsible for allocation of campus-wide expenses that relate to accessibility concerns of any sort. Working to promote the accessibility fund to student groups and individuals around campus, it works to create an inclusive and equity driven campus experience.

During the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year:

- Hosted the SFSS Let's Get Accessible Event on the Surrey Campus, which provided snacks to students and taught about the importance of event accessibility
- Worked to improve the SFSS Accessibility Grant Program Policy, making it more accessible for any student
- Hired an Accessibility Designated Assistant to help the SFSS with research and accessibility promotion
- Allocated funds and assistance for prominent groups on campus such as SFU Autistics United



Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee makes recommendations on the annual advocacy priorities of the board that best address the needs of SFU Undergraduate students. The committee develops and implements various initiatives and campaigns to address these needs.

During the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year:

- Organized a TransLink Advocacy campaign that collected student feedback on transit experience and promoted the U-Pass Extension Referendum Questions
- Promoted consent culture on campus through the distribution of Consent Toolboxes, and advised SFU on the development of GP-44 (Sexual Violence and Misconduct Prevention, Education and Support Policy)
- Hosted multiple mental health awareness events on both the Burnaby and Surrey campus, focusing on de-stressing and promoting access to resources
- Collected student signatures for the GrantsNow campaign alongside UBC AMS and UVic UVSS to lobby the provincial government to create up-front, needs-based grants for low-income students
- Lobbied the provincial government alongside UBC AMS and UVic UVSS to implement equitable tenancy rights for student living on university campuses

Events and Promotions Committee

The SFSS Events Committee is responsible for creating value for the SFSS membership by organizing diverse events on all three campuses.

During the 2017/2018 fiscal year:

- Hosted the Annual Fall-Kick Off concert which broke past years records with more than 2,000 students in attendance
- Hosted mini and large Carnivals in the Fall and Spring Semesters
- Sold out most Pub Nights, the most notable being Halloween and St. Patrick's Day
- Hosted Club and Student Union Socials, which provided for the first time an opportunity for different student groups to come at voice their concerns to Board directly



Surrey Campus Committee

The Surrey Campus Committee works to advocate for the interests of Surrey students and to hold events to enhance student life at the campus. It also aims to support the initiatives of Surrey Clubs and Student Unions, as well as the projects by the Board of Directors regarding the campus.

During the 2017/2018 Fiscal Year:

- Ran a large-scale Pub Night for Surrey students with over 180 tickets sold
- Assisted in the Surrey Space Expansion project which resulted in an agreement to increase study space and improve existing spaces
- Organized de-stresser events such as kitten therapy, food & drink giveaways, and games days
- Assisted in consultation of library space improvement



Vancouver Campus Committee

The Vancouver Campus Committee focuses on improving issues affecting students on the Vancouver Campus. The goal of the Vancouver campus committee is to enhance student life through engagement and advocacy initiatives, as well as community building events.

During the 2017/2018 fiscal year:

- Hosted a Halloween Movie Night and gave out free snacks
- Hosted an Angel Tree Event in November, decorating the Harbour Centre Campus with Christmas trees and posters
- Tabled in collaboration with the Vancouver Winter Warm Up and Puppy Therapy event to collect donations
- Created 26 full baskets of toys, hygiene products, and food for any SFU students who used the food bank program at SFU (for the 2017 Angel Tree Project).

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. In November 2017, a referendum was held to determine the continuation of the U-Pass service. The referendum passed with 96% approval, and had the highest voter turnout in recent history.



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! In 2017, we renewed our partnership with Student Care to ensure the continuation of consistent student health and dental care. The health and dental plan also changed from Desjardins Insurance to Pacific Blue Cross in 2017.

NOTICE OF A REFERENDUM: U-PASS BC

On Nov 21st - 23rd, 2017 the SFSS will ask you to extend the U-Pass program at its current price or lose their pass after Spring 2018.

GET READY TO VOTE!

Nomination Period
Oct 23rd - Nov 5th

Campaign Period
Nov 6th - 20th

Voting Period
Nov 21st - 23rd

simon fraser student society | Learn more at bit.ly/SFSSRefUPass2017