

simon fraser
student society

2018-2019

Annual General Report



We respectfully acknowledge that the meeting will be presented on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsiléil-Waututh), k̓wík^wəł̓əm (Kwikwetlem) and ǵícáy̓ (Katzie) Nations. Unceded means that these territories have never been handed over, sold, or given up by these nations, and we are currently situated on occupied territories.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Members,

I am Giovanni HoSang and I am the President of the Simon Fraser Student Society, the body representing all undergraduate students at Simon Fraser University. The SFSS Board of Directors, Staff, and volunteers are committed to supporting students to reach their full potential by providing resources and services that represent, connect, and benefit our members.

University relations is always at the forefront of our priorities. We have a positive working relationship with SFU, and we partner with the university on various initiatives that help improve student well-being, engagement, and financial health. We are also working closely with the university to ensure tuition affordability, and the financial burden on students is top of mind during annual budget reviews and consultations. For example, we are working diligently to be part of the budget consultations from the onset. We will be making our priorities known to ensure the University knows that undergraduate students were blindsided last year with the tuition increase of up to 20% for some undergraduate international students, and that this is unacceptable to us. However, we can't do this alone; we need general student support. We want you to be involved in the advocacy that we do.

We also recognize that student advocacy is one of the strongest pillars of our organization. We have been lobbying various levels of government to ensure the priorities of our membership are reflected in the policies and decisions that shape our student experience. Previous wins in government lobbying include: eliminating interest rates on provincial student loans, increased investment in Open Education Resources, and provincial wide reviews of sexual violence and prevention policies, or even getting a Provincial Tuition Freeze in the late 90s and early 2000s. Today, we are working to fix the chronic under-funding of post-secondary institutions across the province, advocating for needs-based grants, ensuring that students have access to affordable housing, increasing the efficiency and safety of public transit, and making our campuses more accessible. This year, we have a great opportunity to engage with the democratic process of our country with the upcoming federal election. As a student society, we will put in place information sessions and get out the vote initiatives so candidates see that students matter. This will be an opportunity for students to participate in the democratic process of our country - have your voice heard and help bring our community together!

The SFSS is also looking forward to opening the doors to the new Student Union Building in Spring 2020. We have been working hard for the past few years to bring the vision of this new building to life. This building will be at the heart of the Burnaby campus, and will allow our membership to create new memories and connect with the student community on campus. We hope that our members will enjoy the amenities in this building which include a community kitchen, nap room, gaming room, rehearsal space, and open air patios.

In light of the challenges faced by student in Ontario, we are joining student unions across the country in revitalizing student movements. Organizations like the SFSS are an integral part of the student experience and provide students with resources and spaces that cannot be overlooked. We provide funding for students to create their own clubs that add to the vibrancy of campus life, we fund the U-Pass and health and dental plan which make life more affordable for our membership, we organize and take student issues to highest levels of government, and we provide students with a place to call their own on campus. In these times, we must stand for freedom of expression on campus without fear of violence and vandalism, and we must stand for creating safe spaces and to protect the most marginalized. Your voice can be heard through numerous platforms; by joining a club; representing your department or faculty student union; joining an SFSS committee; running for elections; hosting and participating in events, or joining social justice communities and independent societies on our campus.

We are a student society that is working to create a world in which students are thriving everywhere. It is important to make your voices heard, and know that Your Voice Matters.

Yours truly,
Giovanni HoSang

INTRODUCTION

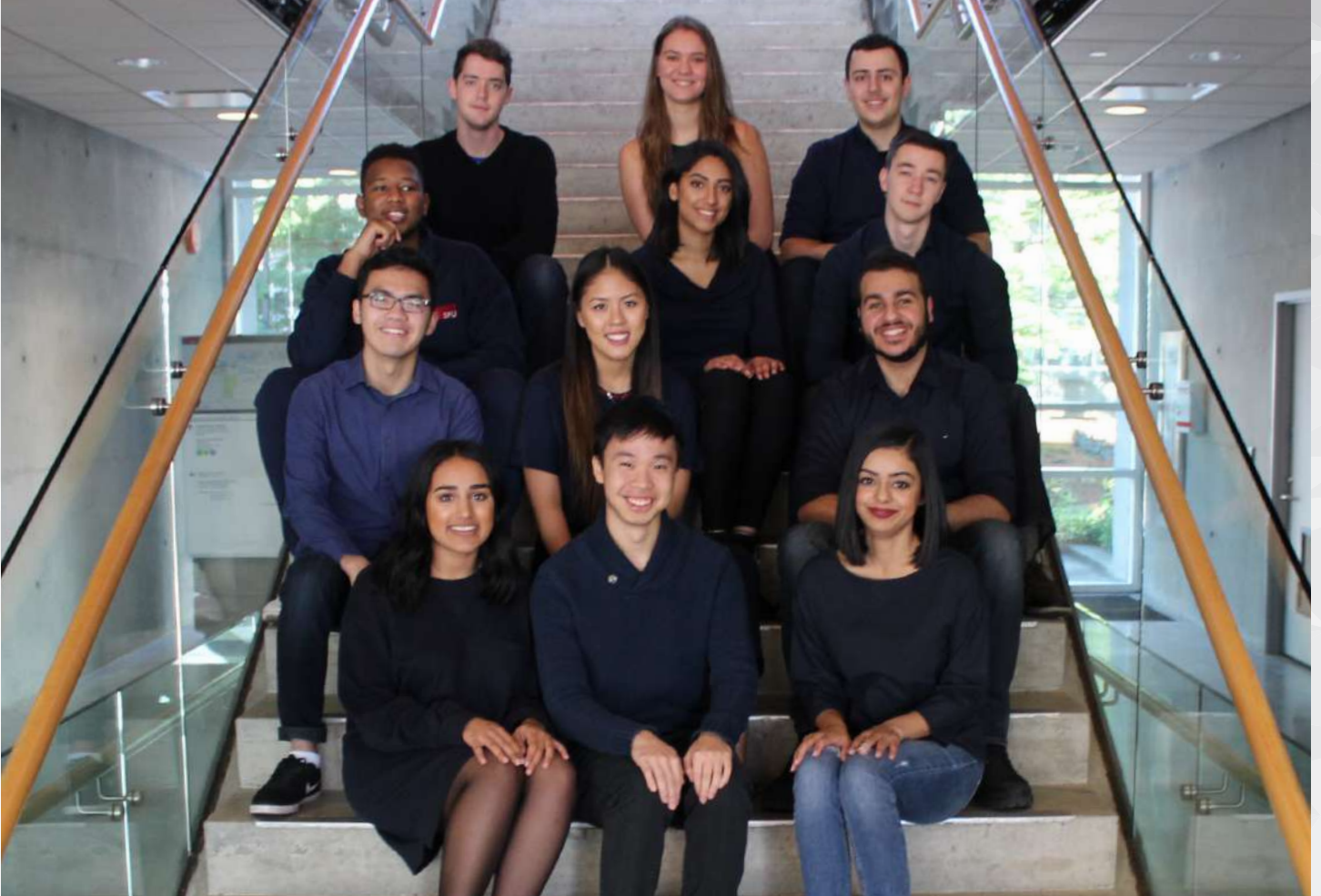
About the Simon Fraser Student Society

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) 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.





SFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**2018 -
2019**

2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

SFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**2019 -
2020**

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Giovanni HoSang
President



Jasdeep Gill
VP External Relations



Christine Loutsik
VP Student Services



Tawanda Nigel Chitapi
VP Finance



Jessica Nguyen
VP Student Life



Shina Kaur
VP University Relations



Nick Chubb
Applied Sciences Rep



Jennifer Chou
Arts & Social Sciences Rep



Andrew Wong
Business Rep



Fiona Li
Communications, Art, &
Technology Rep



Emerly Liu
Education Rep



Julian Loutsik
Environment Rep



Osob Mohamed
Health Science Rep



Simran Uppal
Sciences Rep



Maneet Aujla
At-Large Rep



Rayhaan Khan
At-Large Rep

2018/2019 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS



STUDENT CENTRE

Over the past 12 months there have been many changes and updates to operational processes and policies regarding services offered to members. Our goal is to provide more efficient and effective service to all those involved— students, SFSS staff, and SFSS business partners. We want to “do it right the first time”, which results in less follow ups, encourages ownership, and demonstrates fiscal responsibility. We continue to review our current processes and policies and are always open to hearing member feedback. Changes and updates were implemented based on numerous factors, ranging from general member feedback to complementing our evolving platforms and software. SFSS staff, ranging from Member Services Coordinators, student staff and management all provided input when reviewing processes and policies.

Key updates include:

- Updated terms of reference for clubs
- Updated terms of reference for Clubs Days
- Updated processes for events and event planning and providing online resources to members

Other Member Services highlights include:

- Hiring additional student staff and Member Services Coordinators to support students
- Providing over \$245,000 in grant funding for clubs (approximately \$900/club)
- Providing over \$87,500 in grant funding for student unions (approximately \$2,200/student union)

2018/2019 Highlights

- Clubs had grown to over 276
- Over 750 club grants had been approved
- Total club support reached over \$246,000
- A new Generalist Coordinator joined the Student Centre team to provide groups with additional resources, along with a Club Coordinator and two student staff.
- 3 amazing Clubs Days
- Winter Craft Fair was another hit with the community
- Extended SFSS services to FIC students
- Developed granting guidelines and club policies



STUDENT UNION BUILDING & STADIUM

At over 100,000 square feet, the \$55 million student union building (SUB) will provide space for social gathering, studying, lounging, activities, celebrating, and enhancing the student experience at SFU. Construction continued on the SUB but experienced delays during the year as a result of a very busy construction market and other issues encountered on the construction site.

Construction of the stadium at Terry Fox Field began in March 2019. This facility will be funded in part by a \$10 million contribution from students. It is scheduled to be completed in summer 2020.

2018/2019 Highlights

- All exterior walls were completed and the majority of work moved to inside the building
- The two gas fireplaces were turned on and tested
- The sound-absorbing acoustic panels were installed in the nap room
- Mechanical and electrical systems were installed
- The project remained on budget



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.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Handled many events, typically in a last minute capacity. Dealt with bookings, permits, approvals, and other event-associated requirements
- Created event planning toolkit, specific waivers with Member Service Coordinator (MSC) - Events
- Revised Event Risk Matrix
- In collaboration with SFU Student Engagement and Retention, revamped Co-Curricular record and reporting processes
- Developed Events Terms of Reference
- Revamped reporting processes for Core, travel and conference, and grants

SURREY CAMPUS

2018/2019 Highlights

- A new Member Service Coordinator (MSC) for Surrey, Shelley Durante, has been hired and is building strong relationships with clubs, student unions and the staff at SFU Surrey while ensuring daily operations run smoothly
- The MSC Surrey is working with SFU Surrey administration to find and secure more space for student life and activities on campus
- The SCC has been actively meeting and has plans laid out for the year to come
- The SFU Surrey events department is making the transition to Meeting, Event and Conference Services (MECS) on the Surrey Campus

WOMEN'S CENTRE



The SFSS Surrey office is located at the SFU Surrey Campus which is home to 3,200 full time students and 8,700 students overall annually. The SFSS Surrey office, which provides access to the same resources and services available at the Student Centre in Burnaby, is located at the back of the SFSS lounge. The lounge provides a space for students to study, have lunch, access safe sex and menstrual supplies and resources, play board games or even take a nap. The Member Service Coordinator for Surrey supports the Surrey Campus Committee (SCC), Surrey based clubs and student unions and the general student population with all things related to SFSS.



The Women's Centre is a sex positive, trans and intersex inclusive space on campus that provides services to students of all genders, including peer support, crisis referrals, a free feminist library (no fines!), free safer sex and menstrual supplies, snacks, and diverse and creative programming all year round.

A lounge is available for all self-identified women and people who experience sexism and misogyny because they are identified by others as women.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Co-created and co-organized with the African Students Association for our first highlight yearly event: Building Intersectional Feminism in Our Communities
- Hosted 16 Community Kitchens in collaboration with Embark Sustainability. Over 300 students have met in our space to cook, engage and build long lasting friendships
- The Collective revitalized our annual perennial campaign “Cookies for Choice”, an event to share information on sex positivity and pro-choice services in Metro Vancouver
- Co-organized with SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry and Battered Women Support Services, a workshop series centering self-love and empowerment for black women and mixed race women on campus
- Collaborated with Women in Engineering to host the national day of remembrance and action on violence against women with more than 100 participants from the SFU community
- Hosted the weekly support group led by the SFU Health and Counselling department, “Roots and Resilience”
- Supported a couple of volunteer students to create our first book club, “Crossroads”, a student-run intersectional feminist book club with the goal of bringing students together, fostering active discussion, and bringing back reading for pleasure
- Hosted the first #womeneverywherecode workshop in collaboration with Women in Computer Science
- Collaborated with Out On Campus in

hosting the third anniversary of the Pulse memorial by inviting two Latinx queer elders to exchange intergenerational wisdom

- Clubs Days in the Spring and Summer semester provided a platform for student groups to show what they have been doing, engaging with the general student population, and finding new members

OUT ON CAMPUS



Out On Campus (OOC) provides support and services for students, while also functioning as a place for events, education, and advocacy. We are committed to maintaining a safer and more inclusive space.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Held our annual event in conjunction with the Women's Centre to honour trans people for Trans Day of Remembrance
- Held a week of events celebrating trans lives in observation of Trans Day of Visibility
- Launched a year-long collaboration with SUCCESS to bring free HIV and Hepatitis-C education and testing to all SFU students
- Launched the “#WeJustNeedtoPee” poster campaign, which aims to dispel some of the misconceptions surrounding trans people in bathrooms and to express a message of support to the SFU trans community
- Held a Pulse memorial in collaboration with the Women's Centre to honour those who lost their lives in the Pulse nightclub shooting
- Hosted a series of Art Therapy workshops with Vancouver art therapist, Shauna Kaendo
- Hosted monthly discussion group for asexual and aromantic people

CAMPAIGNS, RESEARCH, AND POLICY

The role of the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator (CRPC) is to provide support in the areas of governance 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 and other service areas.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Coordinated staff support for the Independent Electoral Commission to facilitate the SFSS Spring General Election
- Facilitated Board of Directors, Board of Directors candidates, Council and Independent Electoral Commission orientation sessions
- Supported three different Board committees by providing in-depth policy review, government submissions and research
- Developed the SFSS's first-ever Advocacy Survey and the SFSS Women of the Year Awards in collaboration with the Communications Department
- Completed a comprehensive literature review on student food security and an assessment of the current Food Bank Program as part of a \$20,000 joint SFSS-SFU Food Bank Research Project to improve the current program for SFSS students
- Produced over 30 briefing notes on various topics for staff, the Board of Directors, and Board Committees



COPY CENTRE

The SFSS permanently closed its Copy Centre, effective March 18, 2019. This decision came after years of the SFSS annually incurring significant deficits.

The Board of Directors ultimately decided that using student fees to continue to fund our Copy Centre was not in the best interests of the students. The Board of Directors understand that while many students have relied on this service, we are moving into a new era with respect to paper products and printing. Many more assignments are submitted digitally, and there has been a considerable shift away from using physical printed resources. For those students who still require printing services, there are now many alternative options available both online and elsewhere in the campus community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many staff members who contributed to our Copy Centre services for so many years.



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.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Worked with our Junior Systems Administrator to implement an interactive calendar and engagement platform for our student groups
- Administered the following annual surveys: General Membership Survey, Rec Pass Survey, and Advocacy Survey
- Worked with FIC for better integrated communications regarding available resources following the new service agreement

EVENTS

The SFSS Events Office creates events that benefit members, including Clubs Days, Winter Craft Fair, and so forth. It provides assistance to the Board of Directors in all event planning, including developing risk assessment plans, budget considerations and logistics. The SFSS Events Office also manages the vending program on campus.

2018/2019 Event Highlights

- Winter Craft Fair
- Clubs Days
- SFSS Board of Directors Elections Debate in the West Mall Atrium
- Carnivals
- Week of Welcome
- Pancake Breakfasts
- Movie Nights in collaboration with SFU



2018/2019 COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Governance Committee is to provide the Board of Directors with formal recommendations and reports aimed at strengthening its governance processes and capacity. These reports typically relate to the SFSS Constitution, Bylaws, Board Policies, committee terms of reference, and governance processes.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Updated our elections policies to ensure we have fair elections
- Worked on updating the terms of reference for SFSS Committees
- Began the process of preparing for Bylaw reform



FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to make and report on the development of recommendations to the Board of Directors aimed at the financial and audit functions of the SFSS.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Restructured departmental budgets
- Reviewed and restructured grant approval processes
- Analyzed Copy Centre performance
- Reviewed cheque requisition process

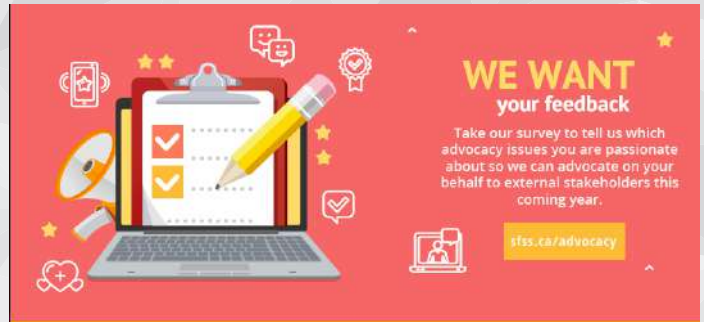
ACCESSIBILITY FUND COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Accessibility Fund Committee is to make and report on the development of recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the needs of, and supports available to students with disabilities, as well as the accessibility grant applications.



2018/2019 Highlights

- Conducted an accessibility survey to assess the needs of our members
- Revised the accessibility grant application
- Worked towards providing learning disabilities assessments to our members
- Began work on a new accessibility standard policy to ensure consistency in resources and services available at all SFSS meetings and events



The Federal, Provincial, Municipal Lobbying and Advocacy Committee identifies, prioritizes and addresses issues that concern students. The committee plans lobbying campaigns, partnerships, and external engagement based on data collected through various membership services. This data and feedback aids the committee in compiling and recommending the endorsement of an annual advocacy plan to the Board of Directors.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Worked on the following campaigns:
 - Capping residence and housing fees
 - Eliminating interest on student loans
 - International student tuition affordability
 - Needs-based grants
 - Open education resources
 - Refugee rights
 - Rent with rights
 - Burnaby Mountain tank farm safety
 - Increasing investment in advanced education
 - Accessibility in post-secondary institutions



FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, MUNICIPAL LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

For detailed information on these campaigns and topics, please visit sfss.ca/advocacy.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events Committee focuses on the planning and execution of events on SFU Burnaby campus. The purpose of this committee is to provide engagement opportunities and build a relationship with the general membership.

2018/2019 Highlights

- A three day Spooky Pumpkin Carving
- November Pub Night
- Christmas Carnival
- Christmas Cookie Decorating
- Pictures with Santa
- Women Crush Wednesday
- Women of the Year Awards
- Women's Pub Night Celebration
- Several Munchie Mondays
- Pancake Breakfast at the start of the semester



SURREY CAMPUS COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Surrey Campus Committee is to enhance the student experience for all students at the SFU Surrey campus. We are focused on creating more events, increasing student engagement and involvement in our community, and increasing the quality of life for students on the Surrey campus.

2018/2019 Highlights

- Hosted a collaborative pub night with MESS and SSSS
- Hosted a pancake breakfast for new SFU students during Welcome Week

VANCOUVER CAMPUS COMMITTEE

The Vancouver Campus Committee (VCC) aims to engage the SFSS membership at the Downtown campuses. The goal is to enhance SFSS's presence in the community and to highlight its services and resources offered to students.

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.

In March 2019, SFSS members voted in favour of continued participation in the U-Pass BC program beginning January 1, 2020, at the following monthly rates:

January 1, 2020 – April 30, 2020 – \$41.00
May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021 – \$42.50
May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022 – \$43.35
May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023 – \$44.20
May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024 – \$45.10
May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025 – \$46.00

May 1, 2025 onwards: annual increases of up to 2% per year rounded to the nearest \$0.05.

The negotiated contract between TransLink and student unions in BC is currently undergoing legal review.



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.

