

**simon fraser**  
**student society**

**2016-2017**  
**VP Finance 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:lō, and Tsleil-Waututh people."]

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# Introduction

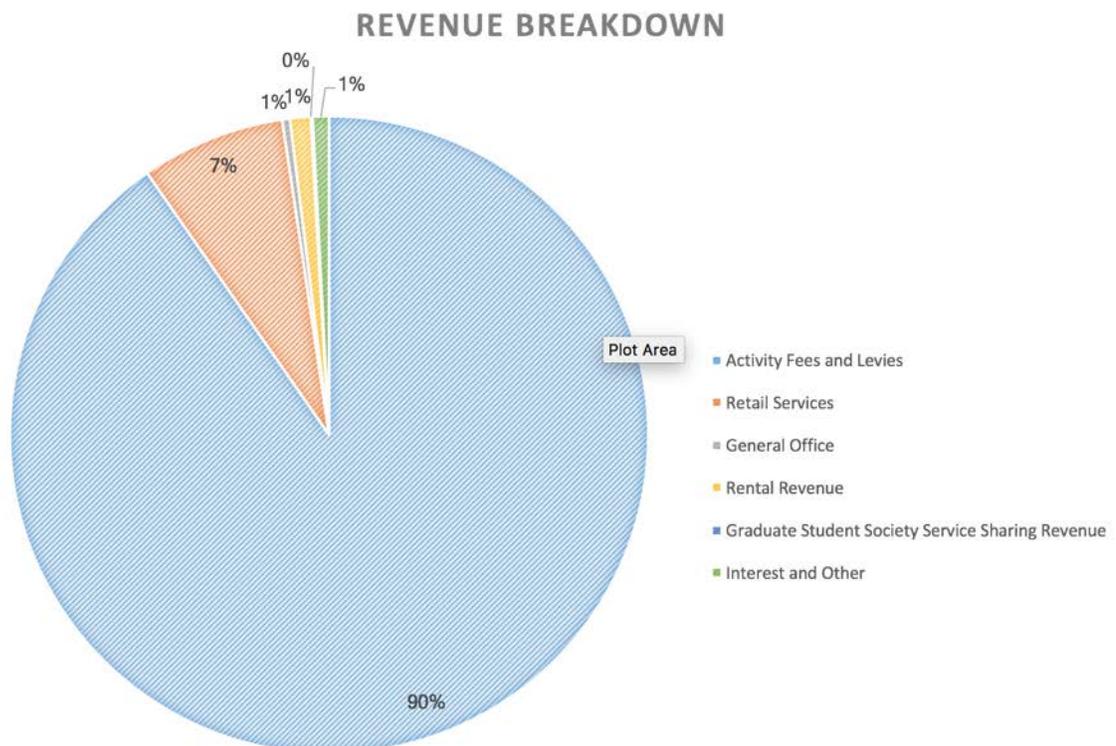
The purpose of this document is to provide a report regarding the financial standing of the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) from May 1st, 2016 to April 30th, 2017, as stated in the SFSS by-laws.

In accordance with this requirement, this report shall include an overview of the SFSS's revenues, expenses, and some key highlights.

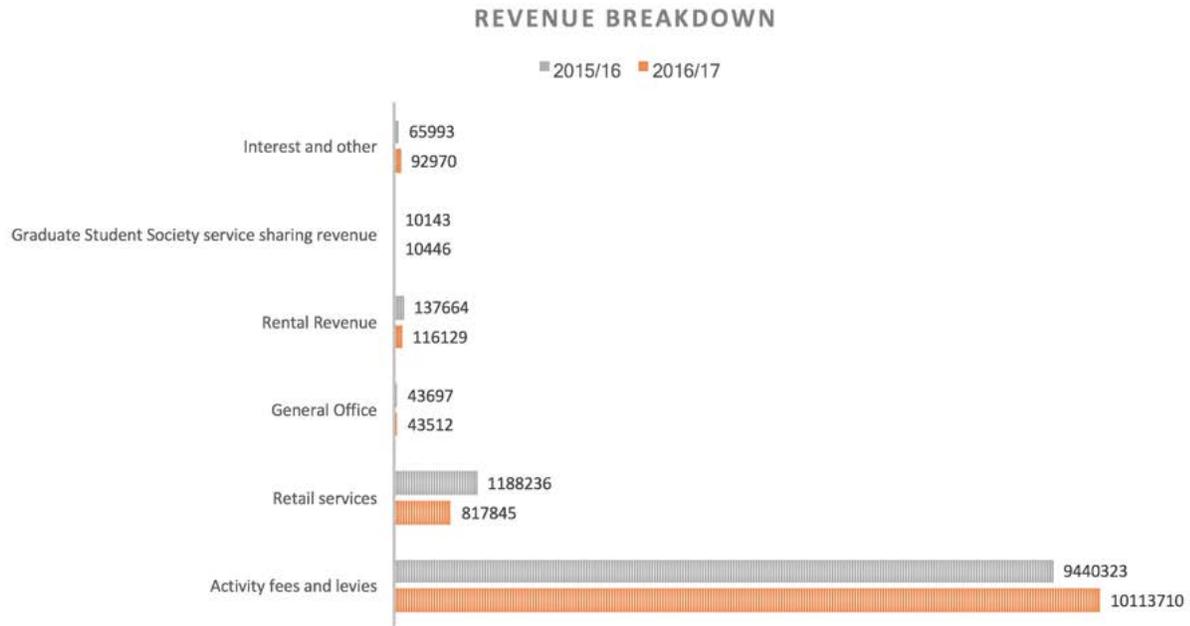
## Overview of Revenue

This section will provide you a brief overview of the different revenues that the SFSS collects.

The SFSS mainly collects revenues in the form of activity fees and levies, which were approved by the SFSS membership, as can be seen in the pie chart below. Although \$10,113,710 of revenue is in the form of activity fees, \$1,080,902 is generated from other activities. These other revenue activities include retail services (copy centre and food and beverage), general office (craft fair, conference room rental, vendor permits, advertising, and other), rental revenue (rental spaces), Graduate Student Society service sharing revenue, interest, and other.



Additionally, the activity fees and levies increased as a result of the Build SFU Levy, which is explained further in Note 2 of the audited financial statements. The retail service revenue decreased due to the closure of the Food and Beverage Operations, which is expanded upon in the highlights section of this report. The following table compares the revenues from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

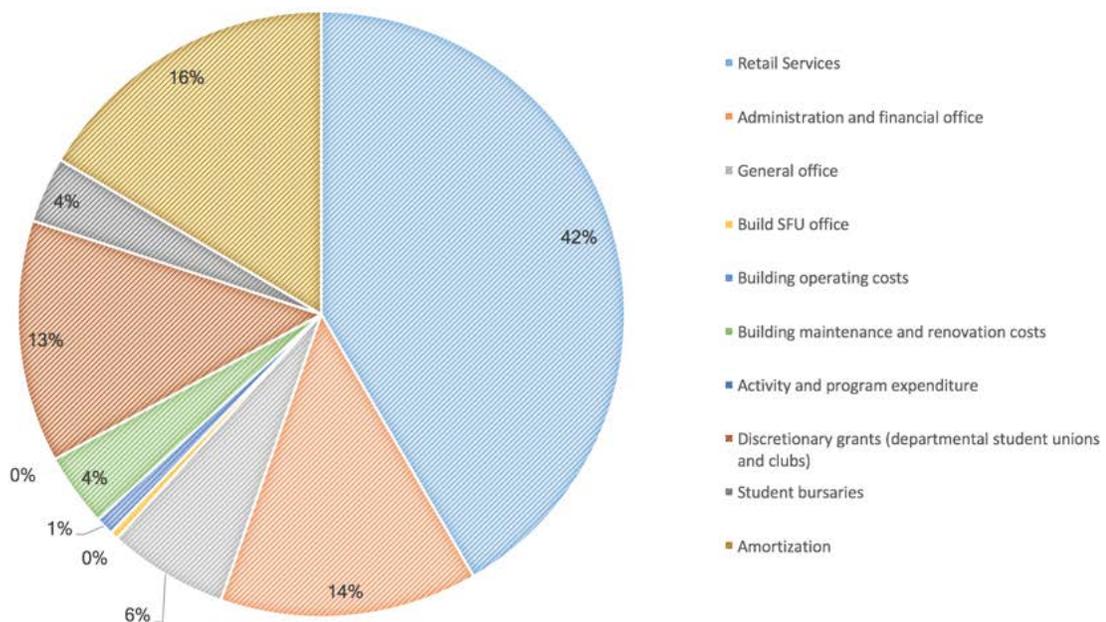


# Overview of Expenses

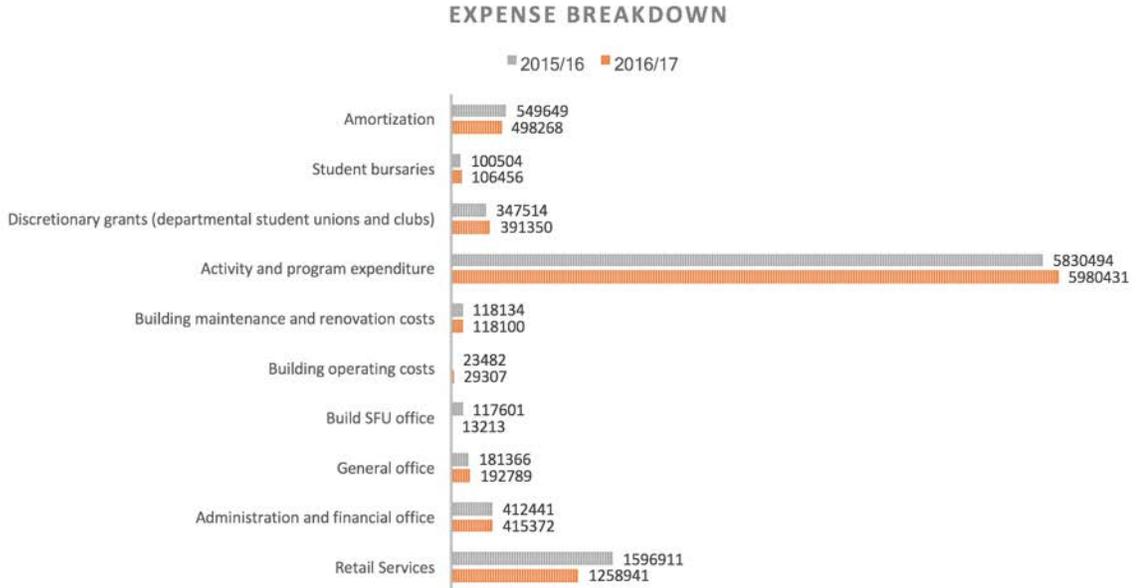
This section will provide you a brief overview of the different expenses that the SFSS incurs.

The SFSS incurs expenses through various services provided to undergraduate students. These services are expensed through departments and budgets, such as retail services, administration and financial office, general office, Build SFU office, building operating costs, building maintenance and renovation costs, activity and program expenditures, discretionary grants (student unions and clubs), student bursaries, and amortization.

## EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



The expenses for retail services decreased slightly due to the closure of the food and beverage service, which is expanded on in the highlights section. The Build SFU office expense decreased due to less work being required, which is expanded on in the highlights section. The following table compares the expenses from 2015/16 to 2016/17.



# Key Highlights

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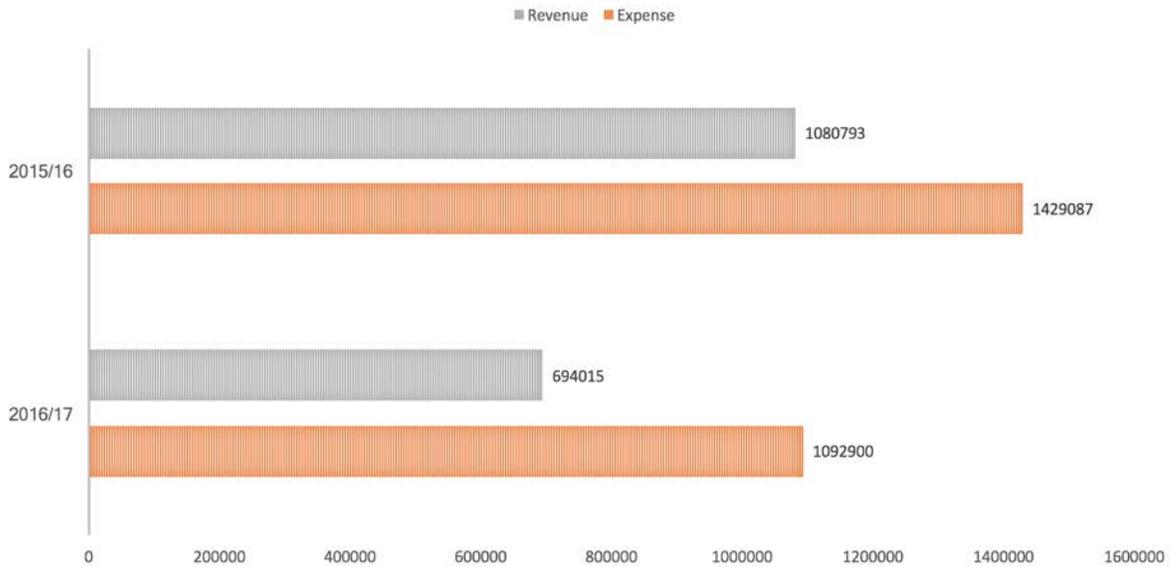
## Food and Beverage Operations

The SFSS permanently closed down its Food and Beverage Operations, which includes the Highland Pub, Higher Grounds Coffee Shop, Ladle, and catering services, which was effective June 15, 2017. The decision came after years of the SFSS Food and Beverage Operations annually incurring a \$300,000 plus deficit.

Moving forward, the SFSS will be able to reallocate these resources to provide new or improved services for undergraduate students.

Although this service was permanently closed, the SFSS still incurred expenses after the closure date, which includes severance pay for employees. The following is a comparison of the revenues and expenses for the Food and Beverage Operations from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

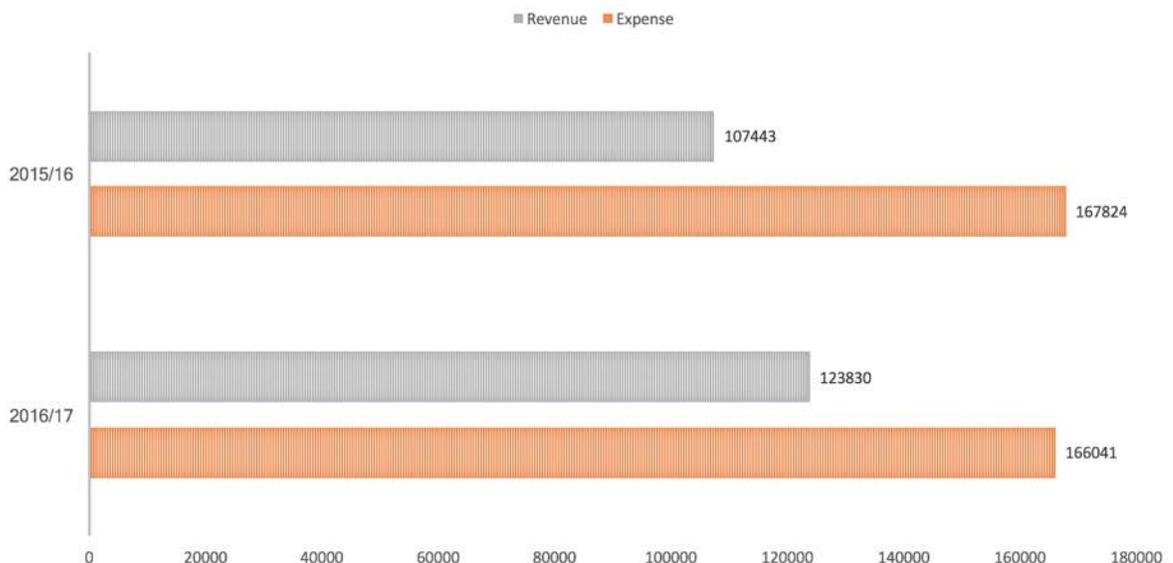
## FOOD AND BEVERAGE OPERATIONS



## Copy Centre

The SFSS operates a Copy Centre that provides an array of printing services, such as binding, photocopying, stapling, banner creation, and much more, at competitive prices. The following is a comparison of the revenue and expenses for the Copy Centre from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

## COPY CENTRE



## **Build SFU**

Build SFU consists of two projects, the Student Union Building and the Stadium project. The construction of the Student Union Building is currently underway. During the construction phase, less support is needed from an administrative perspective, which is why the total expenditure in the Build SFU office decreased compared to last year. The Student Union Building, which is projected to cost \$55,000,000, is expected to be completed in Fall 2018.

As for the Stadium project, during this fiscal year, the SFSS entered into an agreement with Simon Fraser University (SFU). This agreement outlines that the SFSS would contribute \$10,000,000, through the Build SFU Levy, for SFU to construct a stadium. The Stadium project is expected to be completed by April 2020.

## **Clubs and Student Unions**

Grants supplied to clubs and student unions were \$229,111 and \$162,239, respectively. These amounts went directly to support events, administrative costs associated with administering grants, or insurance fees to cover these groups.

## **Fund Balances**

The SFSS has a General Fund, Capital Asset Fund, Build SFU Fund, Space Expansion Fund, Undergraduate Health Plan Fund, First Nations Students Fund, and Accessibility Fund. The total fund balances have increased from \$12,705,559, year ending April 30th, 2016 to \$14,890,712, year ending April 20th, 2017. Additionally, the SFSS created a future contingency reserve of \$650,000 within the General Fund to better prepare the SFSS for unforeseen financial risk.

# Conclusion

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The SFSS is a student led organization that advocates for the interests of 25,000+ undergraduate students at Simon Fraser University (SFU). The student leaders are elected every Spring semester and serve on the organization's Board Of Directors. Additionally, there are indispensable permanent and student staff that support our activities through front line services or behind the scenes.

The SFSS exists to improve the health and wellbeing, academic conditions, social experience, and financial conditions of our members. In all activities, the SFSS's fundamental values are inclusivity, integrity, advocacy, and empowerment.

Although the SFSS strives to achieve these many goals, sometimes mistakes can be made. We forget to understand that the student leaders who govern this organization are students themselves, most of who have never taken on the type of responsibility that these positions require. However, I can say with certainty that activities are conducted with the interests of current and future students in mind. I have a firm belief that no one can better represent students other than students.

My recommendation for the SFSS is to continue to balance making decisions that are in the best interest of undergraduate students and minimize the financial risk to the SFSS.

If you have any questions about this report or recommendations for the SFSS, please contact me via [vpfinance@sfss.ca](mailto:vpfinance@sfss.ca).

Sincerely,

**Baljinder Singh Bains**  
**SFSS Vice President of Finance 2017/18**

