

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

**SFSS BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS  
SEMESTER  
REPORT**



**Sude Guvendik**  
**Arts & Social Sciences Rep**

**Sep 2020 - Dec 2020**



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Hello! I am Sude Guvendik, and I am the current Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Representative for the 2020/2021 Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Board of Directors. I sit on the External committee, First-year engagement committee, Faculty and At-Large Representative members (FARM), Dean Renewal Research committee and Research and Administrative Designated Assistant hiring committee. I was also part of the Students Against TMX working group and Emerge SFU as the brand ambassador.

Here is a link to my work reports from September 2020 to December 2020:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pM0VsALZzWevC4LrqYBLsi4Ful1zKjcnizCodq5BJU/edit?usp=sharing>

My goals for the 2020/2021 SFSS board term have been to empower students to actively search for reaching their full potential and personal goals without any financial, racial, experiential barriers that university life might bring along.

# COMPLETED PROJECTS



## Research and Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee

I joined the Research and Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee for the employer side, and I worked with Lawrence Jones, Shelly Durante and Sarah Edmunds in this committee. I have learned some valuable interview, resume, hiring and communication skills during my time on the committee. It was challenging to go through more than a hundred resumes and make comprehensive comparisons between them to select my top choices. I had to memorize their names and resume points to decide, and I was thrilled with the person who got hired for this position. She was the right fit for the job!

## Students against TMX

The letter we wrote was released and shared our social media campaign on instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/studentsagainstmx/> and

<https://www.facebook.com/StudentsAgainstTMX>

During the DSU meetings, I shared all the links and encouraged DSU execs and presidents to share and sign onto the letter. I also contacted more than fifty professors for them to voice their support for the campaign and sign onto the letter, and we also released our campaign on the sfss website: <https://sfss.ca/studentsagainstmx/>.

# ON-GOING PROJECTS



## Faculty of Arts and Social Science Dean renewal/search committee

During the summer term, I volunteered to be on the research committee for the FASS dean. I represent the undergraduate students of FASS, and my role on the committee has been to be the voice of marginalized and financially struggling students. During our EDI training, I have voiced my concerns regarding the silencing and exclusion of indigenous and black folks and how there can not be any forms of effective EDI ambitions with the existing institutional racism and systemic inequities.

I also took an active role in helping with the interview questions for the dean, such as her plans for advancing issues related to Indigenous initiatives within FASS and what she thinks the most important priorities are for FASS as it pursues decolonization. We hold almost monthly meetings with the deans, faculty and the graduate students representative. The current dean's presentation will be held on the 3rd of March, and I hope to address all my questions.

## Emerge SFU

Introduction “about us video”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8yNuOS2UuY>

I took on the project during the summer semester as the Brand Ambassador. My role is to promote our workshops and global vision worldwide by connecting with educational institutions and students from high schools to universities. Emerge SFU strives to instill valuable industry skills in students through a series of workshops over the course of four to six weeks.

These workshops will be open to students from any discipline, allowing them to learn skills they might not typically be exposed to in their program.

Through networking initiatives, we try to connect with universities worldwide to start our international chapter just as we did in Pakistan with Habib University. I have established several networks with universities in Ghana, Lebanon, South Africa, and Turkey. I hope to spread our global vision of “ free coding, free education for all” as we reach out to more and more students dedicated to learning and teaching.

## First Year Engagement Committee

The chair of this committee, Haider Masood and I discussed how we could support the first-year students during times of uncertainty as they started their first terms at SFU.

Initially, we planned on hosting a series of panel discussions before the Christmas break. I contacted various student groups to ask if they would be interstate to be panelists for our

panels. However, as the exam week approached, most of our potential panelists emailed back and cancelled the mock sessions; thus, we could not host the ‘pro-tips for exam” panel sessions before the exam week. However, we will be hosting a bunch of interactive panels and other exciting projects for the upcoming Spring semester.

## **PAIN POINTS**



This term has been the most challenging for me as I had to travel back home, Ghana, due to family obligations. The time difference made it very difficult and overwhelming for me to join the meetings or classes as most of them took place late at night; thus, my sleep schedule was pretty much ruined( I had to sleep during the day and work during the night; however, I could not sleep in the daylight).

Additionally, I was infected with Covid-19, and my recovery period extended to two months as I had a preexisting health condition that brought down my immune system. I joined some of my meetings from the hospital, and the internet connection was very much unstable. I tried bringing back my motivation to continue with my courses, but I had to withdraw from one of them. However, after my recovery, I kept track of my SFSS board and academic goals for the semester.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



It is essential to start the day early and have a routine and exercise. Keep motivating yourself and know that if you manage your time effectively, you can reach your goals, and for that, I used google calendar, sticky notes and alarms. I often get excited and take on too many responsibilities. I put them on the back burner, so to prevent that, I prepared a list of my weekly and monthly goals and posted them all over my room. As I saw all my targets for the semester, I was more motivated to take them off the wall and try to complete them. Make sure to remember your exam timetable for the term and take less work during those weeks so you wouldn't stress yourself out.





