

simon fraser
student society

**SFSS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
SEMESTER
REPORT**



Nafoni Modi
Health Sciences Rep

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Hi everyone, thank you for taking the time to read my Fall 2020 Semester Report, and learn a little bit more about the projects I participated in and completed during this time, pain points I came across, and recommendations I have going forward.

My name is Nafoni Modi, and currently I sit on the 2020-2021 term for the Board of Directors as the Faculty of Health Sciences Representative. During this time, I sat on the following committees: University and Academic Affairs Committee (UAA), Faculty and aT-Large Representative Members Committee (FARM), Black, Indigenous and People of Colour Committee, and the Board Organizer Hiring Committee. As well, I am on the Mandatory Anti-Racism Education working group (MARE) and the SFSS Podcast working group. From time to time, I also assist the Events committee with some of their projects and events.

My second semester on the board was a lot like the first, but also different. The similarities were that we continued to work completely online and virtually, as COVID-19 numbers were still high. However, the Board has nonetheless been able to successfully implement new policies and amazing motions that I am proud of. For example, we restructured the way the SFSS works, hired an Operations Organizer, hired an Accessibility coordinator, and so many other things. We continue to create

meaningful campaigns and advocate for our students. The Board meets bi-weekly and we discuss and debate on a wide level of different topics.

This last semester, I hope to complete all projects I have in progress, and leave SFSS better than it was when I entered.

COMPLETED PROJECTS



Project One: WTF SFSS

Myself, VP Student Life Jennifer, and At-Large Rep (Balqees), worked with sfu radio to produce a few podcast episodes on a range of different topics. Some of the topics we discussed were TMX campaign, the AGM, and the Council/Board restructuring. This was a really cool way to bring information to students in a fun and engaging way.

Project Two: Board Organizer

I had the opportunity to sit on a hiring committee to pick the new Board Organizer for the board. It was a great experience. I had the opportunity to learn how the hiring process works, what hiring managers look for when looking to hire new employees. As well, the key things that people look at in terms of resumes, cover letters and interviews.

It also gave me the chance to advocate for a Board Organizer who i felt would really propel SFSS forward in a progressive and ethical way.

ON-GOING PROJECTS



Project One: MARE

Anuki and myself are continuing with our MARE project. However, we have changed the scope of this project. Now, we are looking to create workshops for students to tune into and learn about racism, oppression, etc. I am really excited to continue on with this project

Project Two: BHM

I am working with Jennifer and Anuki to bring some events to SFU students to celebrate black history month. These events include cooking workshops, dance workshops, and movie nights. As well, we have created some informational posts and ways that students can support Black businesses in British Columbia.

Project Three: BIPOC Mentee/Mentor

This semester, I am hoping to create a new project in which BIPOC Undergraduate students are matched with BIPOC graduate students in a “mentor/mentee” type of relationship. This, I am hoping, will help BIPOC undergraduate students feel supported on their journeys to grad school, and help them gain practical advice from those who have similar experiences to them.

PAIN POINTS



A pain point has been attempting to balance SFSS with school and personal life. I think that the pandemic has also exacerbated the issue. It is draining to be on zoom meetings for so many hours in a week without in-person human interaction.

Another pain point has been trying to coordinate schedules with other people. I find that it takes a while to try to plan meetings sometimes, as people are so busy throughout the week, so often we have to resort to scheduling meetings during non-office hours.

The last of my pain points is trying to work within policies and bylaws (and sometimes Roberts Rules) to make projects become reality. As much as these things are imperative and crucial to the SFSS, I still find myself struggling from time to time! However, it is nice having my team to help me where I may not fully understand or know the correct steps to take.

RECOMMENDATIONS



My first recommendation would be a transition week, where the old board and new board have a chance to work together. This allows the new board to shadow

their respective positions and learn from those who have come before them. It would also help alleviate the stress and nervousness that is present during the beginning of the board year.

My second recommendation is having set hours in which meetings can happen. We have a lot of committees and working groups, and thus, we have a lot of meeting that need to be conducted. However, this often leads to having multiple meetings in one day, sometimes back to back. This leads to zoom fatigue and makes burnout happen a lot quicker!