

The following Board policies establish the stance of the Society on social, political and economic issues relevant to the membership of the SFSS.

SFSS Issues Policies

Simon Fraser Student Society

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student society

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

The SFSS Issues Policies shall serve to clarify the stance of the Society on social, political and economic issues relating to student life and post-secondary education that are important to the SFSS membership. The SFSS Issues Policies shall also serve as a resource and a guide to assist in the development of campaigns, stakeholder relations and media strategies employed by the Society.

The SFSS shall limit its Issues Policies to issues directly pertaining to student life and post-secondary education. The issues covered by these policies are developed through member engagement activities.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

Each policy will be reviewed annually. Where no change is required, the policy will remain in its current state. Where need or opportunities for improvement arise, the policy shall be created, changed, or repealed as outlined in the SFSS Board Policies R-1.



IP-1: REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

<p><i>POLICY TYPE: ISSUES POLICY</i></p> <p><i>POLICY TITLE: REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS</i></p> <p><i>POLICY REFERENCE NUMBER: IP-1</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"> Adopted: 2020-08-21 Next Scheduled Revision Previous Revisions: 2019-12-13 </p>		
Position	Signature	Date
Board President		
Executive Director		

Preamble

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for “ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights”. It supports [individuals] in “mak[ing] their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care”. These reproductive rights provide individuals with choice. The SFSS is a trans-inclusive organisation thus, this policy does not just apply to cisgender women. This policy uses the term **trans-inclusive** as an umbrella term to mean inclusive of transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, gender neutral/agender, and gender non-conforming identities and experiences.

The SFSS recognizes that debate, discourse, and access to information about sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (including abortion, contraception and pregnancy) is a commonplace – and important – part of campus life. This debate includes individuals who adopt beliefs that are pro-choice and pro-life.

Pro-choice is the view that individuals with reproductive capacity should have the right to make decisions on their own sexual and reproductive health, and advocates for personal autonomy and self-determination over their own bodies.

Pro-life is the view that opposes the practice of abortion and its legality, and advocates for supporting the right to life of a fetus. Some supporters believe there are some cases where abortion should be permitted, while others do not.

Both pro-choice and pro-life are broad viewpoints with no clear definition. Not all prochoice nor all pro-life supporters maintain the same position with respect to access to abortion.

Policy

1. The SFSS supports:
 - a. The provision of non-judgemental information on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (including abortion, contraceptives and pregnancy), and support for students, parents and families in making decisions relating to their sexual and reproductive health;
 - b. Discourse regarding sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and in particular, that recognizes students' rights to physical and mental well-being, integrity, dignity, privacy and access to reproductive health services; and
 - c. Information to access safe, publicly-funded health services including but not limited to reliable contraceptives, abortion services and family planning information and services.

2. The SFSS opposes:
 - a. Campaigns, actions, or lobbying activities (including the posting or distribution of materials) that interfere, intimidate or attempt to intimidate students from making informed decisions about sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;
 - b. Distribution of disturbing photographs, media or other materials, including materials that cause (or have the potential to cause) mental distress or are intended to shock, disturb or harass students into adopting a particular belief with respect to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (including abortion);
 - c. Any policy, rule or law that fails to recognize students' entitlement to access to health care, including abortion services and contraception;
 - d. Harmful medical practices and procedures, such as female genital mutilation and forced sterilization.

3. The SFSS will not recognize as a club or provide any SFSS resources to groups who do not demonstrate their respect and commitment to the principles set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. Providing SFSS resources includes but is not limited to funding, facilities booking, staff time, and other organizational or financial resources.



IP-2: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

<i>POLICY TYPE: ISSUES POLICY</i>		
<i>POLICY TITLE: BLACK HISTORY MONTH</i>		
<i>POLICY REFERENCE NUMBER: IP-2</i>		
Adopted: 2020-08-21 Next Scheduled Revision Previous Revisions: 2019-12-13		
Position	Signature	Date
Board President		
Executive Director		

Preamble

Black History Month started as Negro History Week in the United States in 1926, led by the work of African-American scholar Dr. Carter G. Woodson. In Canada, Black History Month was officially recognized by the Canadian House of Commons in 1995. This incredible milestone was spearheaded by the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black woman to sit in the House of Commons.

During Black History Month, it is important that the SFSS highlights the many Black achievements outside of trauma and struggle, and also focus on celebrating Black love, art, and joy. Celebrating Black History Month on a national-scale is crucial to fighting Black erasure and anti-Black racism in Canada.

Black erasure is the wide-scale marginalization and indifference of Black people, their history, and contributions across disciplines, rendering Black people invisible in society.

Anti-Black racism is deeply embedded passive or active discrimination specifically directed against Black and African-descent people in relation to their unique history with regard to colonization and enslavement. Anti-Blackness devalues Blackness, while systemically marginalizing Black communities, the issues that affect them, and the institutions created to support them.

The intentionality that the SFSS brings into Black History Month educating people on Black contributions in Canada should set the tone for how to appreciate Blackness all year-round, while recognizing the diversity of the Black community.

The SFSS passed a motion on February 1, 2019 to formally recognize Black History Month at Simon Fraser University. In addition, during June 2020, the SFSS took a stance by [standing in solidarity](#) with Black lives. It is important that we continue to tangibly uphold the statements that we made during this time, “working with Black student organizers and allies... holding our University accountable in any efforts for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice”. In doing so, the Society must celebrate the work and efforts of current Black people and organizations.

Policy

1. The SFSS supports:
 - a. Proactively celebrating and supporting Black History Month efforts led by Black students and groups;
 - b. Education, awareness, and solidarity with self-liberation efforts of Black and African peoples;
 - c. Educators and students embedding Canadian Black history in post-secondary institutions;
 - d. Recognizing Black people in areas outside of solely racism and social justice, and celebrating Blackness year-round;
 - e. Black student representation and empowerment in student governing positions and continuous efforts for recruitment;
 - f. Amplifying of Black student organizers and groups on campus, and amplifying calls for specific protection and supports for Black communities as it relates to policies, practices, programming, and resources within the SFU community; and
 - g. The ethical collection of disaggregated race-based data and research that could inform prevention, intervention, and strategies to protect the human rights of Black communities, and support equity initiatives to reduce disproportionate impacts of anti-Black racism.
2. The SFSS opposes:
 - a. Efforts to ignore or dismiss Black History Month initiatives or initiatives to support the equity and empowerment of Black communities;
 - b. The co-opting of Black advocacy initiatives without redress and recognition of the work Black communities have been doing and continue to do; and

- c. Efforts to censor Black activism and advocacy, or diminish the role and history of marginalization, slavery, colonialism, and institutional oppression of Black communities.