

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11th, 2021

SFSS RESPONSE TO THE RELEASE OF MACKAY REPORT SUMMARY BY SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

BACKGROUND

On December 14th, 2020, the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) released [a statement condemning the violent arrest of a Black SFU Alumnus](#) by Burnaby RCMP at the SFU Dining Hall on December 11th, 2020.

On December 13th, 2020, SFU President Joy Johnson [announced the establishment of an external review process](#) to review the event and recommend next steps forward. This morning (March 11th, 2021), exactly three months after the arrest, [a summary of the review](#) was released.

STATEMENT OF RESPONSE

With the release of the [Mackay Report summary](#), we are deeply concerned by the lack of concrete findings and recommendations of this investigation. We take issue with multiple elements of the report.

Firstly, the request for a [SFU Safewalk](#) was not communicated to the Alumnus as a reason for the alumnus to leave the campus on December 11. Rather, the sole basis that was communicated to the alumnus for their removal was on the basis of SFU's COVID-19 campus access policies which were vague, conflicting, and not widely accessible. These policies were also not accompanied by any reliable mechanism to validate if a person is a current student or not. This issue was rightfully highlighted in the Mackay Report summary's second recommendation of "updating [SFU] identification cards so that they contain digital information". However, it does not address the fact that racial biases are what prompt security personnel to disproportionately target [Black](#), Indigenous and other racialized people with [identification checks](#) in the first place.

We are also troubled by the investigation's overall failure to outline Campus Public Safety (CPS) policies and procedures as they were applied in this case.

We could not find anywhere to our knowledge of existing CPS policies that state SFU Safewalk requests result in an automatic and immediate removal of a person from campus as outlined in the report- which would be a problematic practice. This investigation continues to show the lack of transparency in which SFU Security continues to operate, including how this specific incident unfolded. We continue to call on the University to amend policies and procedures relating to security escalation and use of force on campus to be more equitable and safe towards racialized and marginalized students and centered around [trauma and violence-informed](#) approaches.

Incidents like that of December 11th are not isolated incidents. Our Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour community members will continue to be the subjects of racial profiling and violent incidents on our campuses if SFU fails to equitably redress their inadequate policies, procedures and practices. The University must commit to taking tangible action led by racialized voices in tackling these systemic problems. SFU's vague, inequitable, and inaccessible policies, always gives space for institutions to disproportionately target marginalized communities.

The SFSS is reinforcing our calls for swift and immediate action to be taken by the University to protect the safety of our Black, Indigenous and students of colour.

We continue ([in addition to our previous demands](#)) to call for:

1. A change to SFU policies that disproportionately impact racialized and other marginalized students, and for SFU to do meaningful work to have said policy changes with input led by Black, Indigenous and other equity deserving groups.
2. The release of the full Mackay Report with identifiable information redacted for the full extent of this review process.

For students and community members who have been particularly harmed by the incident, this process and the report, please know that the SFSS is committed to protecting and reducing harm caused by these incidents and to leading with empathy and care at all times.

Please feel free to consult the following resources:

SFU Health and Counselling Services: 778-782-4615 | [Additional Support Options](#)

MySSP: 1-844-451-9700

Multifaith Centre: 778-782-3180 | <https://www.sfu.ca/students/multifaith.html>

Black Mental Health Resources at SFU: [Black Student Support and Healing Space](#)