

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 4:34 PM

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), k^wik^wəłəm (Kwikwetlem) and qícəy (Katzie) Nations. Unceded means that these territories have never been handed over, sold, or given up by these nations, and we are currently situated on occupied territories.

3. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

3.1 Council Composition

Student Union Representatives

Archeology	Clara Wilmot
Art, Performance, and Cinema Studies	
Bachelor of Environment.....	Bradley Sarandi
Behavioral Neuroscience	Manroop Gill
Biology	Nicolas Bonilla
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology	Joshua Ham
Business	Mohnish Farswani
Chemistry	Gwen Bui
Cognitive Science	
Communications	
Computing Science	Ryan Vansickle
Criminology	Charlotte Taylor-Baer
Dance	
Data Science Student Union	Myckland Matthew
Earth Science.....	Alex Kristinsson
Economics	Sandra Pal
Education.....	Adrienne Blas
Engineering Science	Alvin David
English.....	Liz Giardin
Environmental Resource.....	
Environmental Science	Chloe Homenuke
Film Student Union.....	
First Nations Studies Student Union	
French	Kylee Pocrnich
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies.....	Devynn Butterworth
Geography	Winnie Wu
Gerontology Student Union.....	
Global Asia Studies Student Union.....	
Health Science.....	
History	Alan Saunderson
Humanities	Sara Wong
Indigenous Studies Student Union (ISSU).....	Estephanie Henriquez
Interactive Arts and Technology	Jeremy Felix

International Studies	Alea Mohamed
Labour Studies	Justin Chen
Linguistics	Brianne Limb
Mathematics	Ben Tischler
Mechatronics System Engineering	Kimia Rezaeian
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	Kyle Newcomb
Music Student Union	
Operations Research	Ashutosh Dubal
Philosophy	Tony Yu
Physics	Manuel Rojas
Political Science (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)	Helen Pahou
Psychology	Tiffany Liu
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) (<i>Chair</i>)	Zaid Lari
Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)	Akum Sidhu
Sociology and Anthropology	Kayla Chow
Software Systems	Mahek Khan
Statistics and Actuarial Science (SASSA)	Stephanie Chung
Sustainable Community Development	
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society	Maven Sera
Theatre Student Union	
Visual Arts	
World Literature	Sara Aristizabal Castaneda

Constituency Group Representatives

Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA)	Serena Bains
First Nations Students Association (FNSA)	Lauren Robson
Out on Campus Collective (OOC)	
Residence Hall's Association (RHA)	
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)	Ryan Stolys
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)	Juanita Julius Ndyamukama
Women Centre Collective (WCC)	Nisha Manhas

Board of Directors

SFSS Directors (*non-voting*)

President	Osob Mohamed
VP External Relations	Samad Raza
VP Finance	Corbett Gildersleve
VP Student Services	Matthew Provost
VP Student Life	Jennifer Chou
VP University Relations	Gabe Liosis
At-Large Representative	Balkees Jama
At-Large Representative	Phum Luckkid
Faculty Representative (Applied Sciences)	Harry Preet Singh
Faculty Representative (Arts & Social Sciences)	Sude Guvendik
Faculty Representative (Business)	Mehtaab Gill
Faculty Representative (Communications, Art, & Technology)	Haider Masood
Faculty Representative (Education)	Emerly Liu
Faculty Representative (Environment)	Anuki Karunajeewa
Faculty Representative (Health Sciences)	Nafoni Modi
Faculty Representative (Science)	WeiChun Kua

3.2 Society Staff

Operations Organizer	Ayesha Khan
Board Organizer.....	Gabriel Goodman
Campaign, Research, and Policy Coordinator	Sarah Edmunds
Administrative Assistant.....	Christina Kachkarova

3.3 Regrets

Biology.....	Nicolas Bonilla
Mechatronics System Engineering.....	Kimia Rezaeian
Political Science (<i>Vice-Chair</i>).....	Helen Pahou
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)	Ryan Stolys

3.4 Absents

Behavioral Neuroscience	Manroop Gill
Business.....	Mohnish Farswani
Computing Science	Ryan Vansickle
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA).....	Juanita Julius Ndyamukama

3.5 Guests

Shariq Ahsan	PSA President
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4. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

4.1 MOTION COUNCIL-2021-03-17:01

Kyle/ Kylee

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Nicolas Bonilla, Helen Pahou, Ryan Stolys, Kimia Rezaeian.

CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY

- Amend to add regrets from Helen Pahou, Ryan Stolys, Kimia Rezaeian

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2021-03-17:02

Kyle/Ben

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 COUNCIL Minutes – MOTION COUNCIL 2021-03-17:03

Kyle/Alan

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minute(s):

- Council 2021-03-03

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

7.1 Council Liaison

- SASU Representative mentioned that a DNA executive had been added to the Accessibility Committee and that the Accessibility Coordinator would now be able to approve grants without

approval. She mentioned that updates to Club and Student Union policies will be posted on the SFSS website soon and that changes have been made in the Health Plan to ensure that the Emergency plan is covered.

- SASU Representative also brought up a letter of condemnation by SFU350 divestment from regarding the recent arrest of land defenders.
- SASU Representative mentioned the search for a New VP Peoples, Equity and Inclusion by SFU.

7.2 Board Liaison

- VP Student Life discussed the SFU Black Caucus statement, which raised issue with the MacKay report as it did not provide justification as to why SafeWalk was used as means to justify for removal and did not include a discussion on systemic racism. She mentioned the SFU VP Peoples, Equity and Inclusion and the recommended changes to the candidate profile to encourage SFU to make this a student facing position.
- Board Meeting March 12 (see link below):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sIIYzERm0q4KSileQDcT0-Zpiivhyhpe_UaKrI8Tw8UU/edit?usp=sharing

8. REPORTS FROM BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

8.1 VP Student Life

- VP Student Life Mentioned that the Board supports the Engineering Student Society President's Meeting. She referred to several events that had recently occurred including the SFSS Women of the Year Award and the SFSS X SFU Recreation Healthy Study Snacks collaboration available on the SFU Recreation IG.
- VP Student Life encouraged Council Members to RSVP for upcoming events.

8.2 VP University Relations

- Not present. (sent the report by email Please see the attachment)

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Supporting the SFU Black Caucus Statement in Response to the MacKay Report Summary – MOTION COUNCIL 2021-03-17:04

Kyle/Charlotte

Whereas the MacKay Report summary investigating the Black Alumnus Arrest on December 11, 2020 was released on March 11 2021,

Whereas on October 14 2020 Council unanimously voted in favour of a motion titled "BLM Solidarity" which included "that Council stand[s] in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and Black and Indigenous peoples who continue to be disproportionately subject to violence due to over policing",

Whereas on December 16, 2021 Council voted in favour of signing on to the Black SFU Staff and Allies Letter which condemned the violent arrest and supports anti-racism efforts for the empowerment and protection of Black communities,

Whereas the SFU Black Caucus released a statement on March 12, 2021 that "wholeheartedly rejects the findings of this report and count it as further evidence of systemic racism at SFU",

Be it resolved that Council and SFSS Councillors who vote in favour of this motion sign on to and support the SFU Black Caucus statement titled "SFU Black Caucus Response to the Release of

MacKay Report on the Dec 11 Violent Arrest of a Black SFU Alumnus",

Be it further resolved that Council distributes the SFU Black Caucus' response to the release of the MacKay Report and amplifies the calls of the Caucus.

CARRIED

In Favour (25): Criminology, Earth Science, Economics, Archeology, Engineering Science, English, EVSCSU, French, GSWSSU, Geography, Humanities, Indigenous Studies, IATSU, International Studies, Labour Studies, Psychology, Sciences, SASS, SASU, Software Systems, Statistics, Sustainable Engineering Student Society, DNA, FNSA, WCC,

Against (4): Mathematics, MBBSU, Operations Research, Physics,

Abstain (8): BESU, BPKSA, Chemistry, Data Science, Education, History, Philosophy, World Literature.

- Chair asked Council Members to commit to keeping the space safe and stated that he will end the discussion if there is disrespect.
- DNA Representative explained that the MacKay Report commissioned by SFU failed to address the underlying causes as to why the violence took place. She explained that on March 12th SFU Black Caucus released their statement on the MacKay Report outlining the troubling elements in the MacKay Report including the lack of reasoning and policy evidence as to why the Safewalk request resulted in removal. The MacKay Report did not discuss the racial inequities that lead up to this event.
- DNA Representative discussed the calls and demands by the SFU Black Caucus which include support for alumnus, and that de-escalation requests from students are heard resulting in policy changes.
- MBBSU Representative asked for clarity as to meaning what it means for council to distribute the SFU Black Caucus statement since that would mean rejecting the findings of the MacKay report which include a full public inquiry, and financial report.
- DNA Representative clarified that the purpose is to distribute among the SFU Black Caucus' response to DSUs and FSUs to amplify their demands. She emphasized that this is important and in alignment with previous statements and motions by SFU Council.
- MBBSU Representative highlighted SFU Black Caucus was requesting financial reparations from SFU and commented on the Go Fund Me campaign that was started for the alumnus. MBBSU Representative stated that he was unsure as to whether the SFSS should be giving financial reparations to the alumni.
- President mentioned that the Go Fund Me campaign was private and not started by the SFSS and therefore irrelevant. She clarified that the SFU Black Caucus' response is meant to respond to how SFU handled the incident. President highlighted that the MacKay report casually mentioned that the individual is tasered to the head, but this action can be very damaging and serious and potentially fatal especially when aimed at the head.
- VP Finance mentioned that he has signed on to the SFU Black Caucus' Response as an SFSS Board of Directors and Student Representative on the SFU Board of Governors. He mentioned that the MacKay summary report is confusing and inaccurate, and the recommendations are inaccurate and does not provide value to BIPOC students, staff, and alumni.
- VP Finance emphasized that the MacKay report is a legal liability coverage for SFU and does not explore why this incident took place and the institutional and systematic racism that occurs at SFU. He amplified the call for the full report to be released including how this investigation was conducted.
- MBBSU Representative mentioned that while the MacKay report is confusing and seems "malarkey", he believes that it would be better to ask for a full release rather than making

conclusions off the current report. He mentioned that he does not want to escalate the situation without clear evidence.

- President mentioned that requesting for full access to the information and supporting a victim of police brutality are not exclusive. She clarified while she does want more information released, she believes it is unlikely that an institution like SFU that care about their reputation would share any information that would harm their reputation. President mentioned that she does not want to delegitimize the lawyer, but that the lawyer has been hired by SFU to support SFU and therefore has an interest in publishing what SFU wants.
- President clarified that the goals of receiving the full report and holding a full public inquiry are to ensure that community and students can have input.
- President clarified that anyone who feels unsafe and threatened should be able to access SafeWalk, but that not every SafeWalk is called for the same reasons. She mentioned that Black people are often seen as a threat especially in white spaces. After being asked, President defined “white spaces”. She mentioned that while there is no specific definition, but the view of the institution and Canada’s long history of colonialism and harm done to People of Colour, specifically Indigenous people, must be considered. She mentioned that white spaces reflect the white supremacy that continues to impact all parts of our society. She mentioned that Council is currently meeting on stolen land. She also mentioned that racial profiling does not happen to white people.
- GSWSSU Representative clarified that the Black Caucus’ rejected how SFU used legality to silence Black students and that the focus should be on how SFU is silencing students by not providing the full report.
- Faculty Representative (Sciences) voiced support for the Motion. He mentioned that no policies were quoted in the MacKay summary, and there are no policies regarding removal of someone if SafeWalk is called on them. He mentioned that he wants an unredacted report to be released and to know how the process was done. He also mentioned that the MacKay Summary does not reflect how institutionalized racism plays out in policies.
- PSU Representative raised worry about the phrasing included in the motion that states “we wholeheartedly reject” and how that might be refuted by the student body as it comes across as Council does not believe that this information has any merit. PSU Representative referenced the current toxic conversation regarding this subject and felt that this motion might escalate the conversation.
- GSWSSU Representative mentioned she had seen the toxicity but, as Council and DSU leaders, Council Members have a promise to inclusion and protecting SFU students including Black students. She mentioned that rejecting the investigation does not mean rejecting everything and that the Black Caucus’ response stated that they reject how the situation was handled and what information is being shared to the Student Body.
- CRIM Representative mentioned that it is difficult to please everyone but emphasized that Council Members should listen to Black Students and amplify the requests of the SFU Black Caucus’ response.
- SASS Representative mentioned that SASS was discussing the report and wanted clarity to the changes that the SFU Black Caucus wants to make in SFU’s Procedures and Policies.
- President mentioned that SFU alludes to needing to make changes in their statement which is contradictory to messaging of the MacKay summary since it claims there was no wrongdoing. She clarified that there is no public record as to what the Procedures and Policies are and SFU Black Caucus wants to ensure that the policies prioritize proper de-escalation training, and non-violent confrontation.
- PSA President raised concern that the SFSS Council was jumping ahead and not examining the MacKay report. He stated that the SFSS Council had not seen the report yet.

- DNA Representative clarified that the MacKay summary report had been released and viewed by the SFSS Council, but the full report had not been released. They clarified that the rejection was towards the summary which is inadequate.
- PSA Representative voiced hesitancy on acting before the release of the full report is released. He mentioned that while he believes that the summary is troubling, more information is required before any action is taken.
- ESSS Representative requested that the SFSS Council voice support for the SFU Black Caucus and then make their own statement when the full report is released.
- DNA Representative mentioned that it is naïve to assume that the full report will have different conclusions. They clarified that the conclusions of the summary are most likely representative of the full report and that conclusions are still problematic.
- President clarified that rejecting the conclusion is rejecting the MacKay summary as the report is contradictory. She also raised issue with the fact that the conclusions of the MacKay summary are stated as fact even though they cannot be fact and are assumptions since the alumnus was not interviewed to provide his point of view.
- BPKSA Representative mentioned that since he has not had the chance to discuss this with his DSU.
- BSU, and Education Representatives mentioned that they would be abstaining due to a lack of information regarding the motion.

9.1 Board BIPOC Committee Appointment MOTION COUNCIL 2021-03-17:05

Kyle/Lauren

Whereas there is a vacancy for the Council Representative seat on the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) Committee,

Be it resolved that Council recommend to the Board of Directors that it appoint X to the BIPOC Committee as the Council Representative.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

- Chair called for nominations three times which was not answered.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1 Student Cybersecurity

- MBBSU Representative discussed and email sent out to SFU students regarding the most recent data breach where 200 000 accounts were accessed, and various amounts of personal data were released. He mentioned that the information was on an unlocked excel spread sheet.
- MBBSU Representative highlighted that SFU should care about the online security of their students and take the proper responses to ensure that the SFU students, staff, and alumni are protected. He mentioned that this is not the first data breach and mentioned the ongoing Class Action Lawsuit brought against SFU (<https://www.slatervecchio.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SFU-Data-Breach-NoCC.pdf>)
- MBBSU Representative asked for Council to consider how they should push SFU to ensure that student data is kept safe.
- Chair highlighted that data leaks appear to be commonplace at SFU and raised alarms at levels of IT security at SFU.
- VP Finance mentioned that the SFSS Board should go to SFU directly to discuss the issue of student security but stated that because of the Class Action Lawsuit, SFU might not be forthcoming.
- President mentioned that the SFSS Board has a JOG meeting with SFU tomorrow regarding

this issue. She mentioned that the SFSS Board has previously talked to the Director of IT Services and mentioned that it might be beneficial to have the Director of IT Services talk about the data breach with Council.

- Chair mentioned that UBC, a similar size university, does not have this issue and inquired as to why SFU was impacted.
- Faculty Representative (Sciences) expressed shock that student information was being kept on an unencrypted excel sheet and highlighted that students might suffer from identity theft after this breach.
- MBBSU Representative mentioned that this appears to be a large-scale IT issue and inquired as to how SFSS Council could pressure SFU to treat the information of students better. He mentioned that it is unacceptable that students must worry about data breaches.
- Chair mentioned that it could be possible that next time student SSNs are leaked which is concerning.
- Criminology Representative mentioned that different students got different lists as to what information was accessed.
- Chair mentioned that Council Members should discuss this with their DSUs and come up with questions and concerns that their constituents might have.

10.2 Budget Consultation

- VP Finance mentioned that significant Bylaw changes made during the AGM allowed restructuring so that Executives and Council can merge reducing the need for Faculty Representatives. He stated that the key idea, is to redistribute funds from Faculty Representatives to Council.
- VP Finance mentioned that the SFSS stipend system had not changed since 2008. He mentioned that he wanted to have a living wage as a foundational principle of the new stipend system. He clarified that the stipend system will have penalties tied in to ensure that Council members are completing their responsibilities and attending meetings.
- He mentioned that in the current Board model, current cost is \$300 000 CAD a year. The Redistribution Model would cost \$370 000 CAD a year. The Living Wage Model would cost \$394 000 CAD in 2021/2022 and \$439 000 CAD in 2022/2023.
- Chair voiced support for Living Wage Model over Redistribution Model since it would include other costs like cell-phone bill. He also mentioned that since Council will become the legal Board of Directors, there will be more work involved.
- The Chair encouraged Council Members to consider how many hours they currently put into their position and how that would change next year. The Chair also raised concerns about what penalty policies would be enacted to ensure that Councilors and Executives perform their duties.
- VP Finance mentioned that the current weekly hours for SFSS Executives is 30h/week and SFSS Council Members would be expected to do 10h/ 2 weeks. He mentioned that this would mean the following commitments over the 2-week period: a 3-hour meeting, 3-4 hours of prep time, and 2-3 hours of committee work.
- Chair mentioned that adjustments could be made as this year would be a trial period.

10.3 SFSS Town Hall

10.3.1. Postponed.

10.4 Space Campaign

10.4.1. Postponed.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11.1 Next Council meeting is March 31st.

12. ATTACHMENTS

12.1 BIPOC Committee TOR

12.2 SFU Black Caucus response to the release of the Mackay Report on the Dec 11 Violent
Arrest of a Black SFU Alumnus - March 12, 2021

12.3 Council Common Room Space Letter

12.4 BN - SFSS Council Remuneration Proposal

12.5 VP University Relations - Executive Officer Report 03_17

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2021-03-17:06

Ben/Kylee

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 6:21PM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Name and Type

Name: Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) Committee

Duration: The committee will be established upon the adoption of these terms of reference and dissolved at the discretion of the Board and proper consultation with BIPOC student groups and communities.

Purpose

The purpose of this committee is to ensure and prioritize the voices of the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) community at Simon Fraser University within the framework of the Simon Fraser Student Society, and that the lived experience of racialized folks is always considered, recognized and acknowledged. Historically Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour disproportionately face more barriers due to the constructs that have been established without BIPOC folks in mind. Academia and university settings are not exempt to the mistreatment and misappropriation of BIPOC voices.

Academia as we know has been used as a tool to assimilate and indoctrinate racialized voices. This committee is to ensure that Black, Indigenous and People of Colour have the ability to speak on issues that directly affect our BIPOC communities within SFU and their educational experience. This committee shall work with the Board of Directors and the SFSS to properly support racialized students from a BIPOC perspective. The role of this committee should be to support, voice opinions and give advice to where the SFSS and SFU are lacking and to close the gaps and barriers that racialized students face in their university experience.

The SFSS prioritizes Indigenous voices, and acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the xʷməθ kʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwtulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem) and q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie) Nations.

Definitions

“BIPOC” is defined as Black, Indigenous, People of Colour. This is an acronym that makes the distinction of racialized folks who face disproportionately more barriers than other groups due to the systemic oppression, colonization, racism, capitalism, dispossession etc.

Racialized - “Racialized refers to anyone who experiences racism because of their race, skin colour, ethnic background, accent or culture. Racialized people are people of colour, Indigenous peoples and ethnic and cultural minorities.”⁷

Barrier - “An overt or covert obstacle; used in equity-based approaches, to mean a systemic obstacle to equal opportunities or outcomes; an obstacle which must be overcome for equality to be possible.”⁷

Colonialism - “Colonialism is the establishment, maintenance, acquisition and expansion of colonies through violence in one territory by people from another territory. The way in which colonization manifests itself may vary depending on the global location. In all forms, colonialism creates an unequal relationship between the dominant colonial state and between the Indigenous peoples of the colonized territory.”⁷

Privilege - “Privileges are systemic advantages based on certain characteristics that are celebrated by society and preserved through its institutions. These can include being white, having money, being straight, not having a disability, etc. People are often unaware that these characteristics can act as privileges as they are so effectively normalized. Privilege is not earned but is awarded automatically based on characteristics and traits of an individual.” ⁷

Marginalization - “Marginalization is a process of social devaluation that serves to justify disproportional access to scarce social and material resources. It’s a process that pushes a particular group or groups of people to the edge of society by not allowing them an active voice, identity or place in it. It does this through the exclusion or isolation of people from being able to participate in political, social and economic mainstreams than others in society who hold power and privilege can participate in.” ⁷

"Systemic Barriers" refers to the systems that have been established without Black, Indigenous, and People of colour in mind and are often excluded.

"Systemic Oppression" refers to how the systems of our society have inherently created disadvantages to Black, Indigenous, and People of colour. Including but not limited to patriarchy, sexism, heteroism, racism, ableism, ageism, militarism, and colonialism.

“EDI” is defined as Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. EDI is brought forward from individuals who have lived experience, and the SFSS acknowledges that these are key factors in order to properly practice EDI.

Membership

- Voting Members
 - President (ex-officio)
 - 2 board members (Co-Chairs), **or** on recommendation of the committee, another member of the committee
 - at least 2 and up to 4 Board members in addition to the Chair
 - 1 member of First Nations Students Association Board
 - 1 member of Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry Executive
 - up to 1 councillor on the recommendation of Council
 - up to 6 BIPOC at-large members

Selection

The selection of Student At-Large members for this Committee will be prioritized to BIPOC community members. A method to self-identify as BIPOC will be a part of the application process in the selection of At-large members.

For appointment of Board members, the Board shall take into consideration Board members with lived experience/those who identify as BIPOC when appointing members to the committee

Deliverables

As a Board Committee, this committee is to provide the Board with formal recommendations and reports including but not limited to:

- organizing engagement initiatives and seeking results that equitably benefits BIPOC students on campus
- highlighting and educating folks on issues that impact racialized students on campus
- supporting those who face barriers on campus due to systematic barriers
- supporting initiatives by BIPOC groups on campus, and ensuring those groups receive proper consideration and consultation
- guide SFSS' advocacy on behalf of BIPOC students and to ensure accountability on the University's EDI efforts, reconciliation efforts, and that they are committed to action
- Addressing concerns and challenging institutional and overt racism at the University
- Building an anti-racist approach to training and development sessions, and cultural awareness training within the SFSS and the University
- Fostering an anti-racist environment through community building events, cultural events, advocacy, and campaigns

Governance

The committee will strive for consensus. Where no consensus is reached, the committee will make decisions by simple majority vote. The committee shall take into consideration and respect Indigenous forms of governance, and recognize how often other forms of governance overrule Indigenous ways of knowing, especially on occupied stolen territories. When the committee takes into account Indigenous forms of governance, the committee shall consider other aspects and ways of knowing in order to properly support this decision making process.

This can include:

- Inviting Indigenous Elders of the Territories and asking for advice or support in the decision making process.
- Finding ways to include Indigenous forms of governance i.e. talking circles, transparency process and community engagement

A majority of voting members constitutes quorum.

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of committee meetings.

Communications

The committee shall meet in person or electronically as required and at the call of the Chair.

The committee shall report on its progress at Board meetings.

The committee shall set a meeting calendar for the duration of the academic year and the first meeting of the term.

The Chair may call a meeting where a notice of three working days has been provided.

Relevant Policies

The members of the committee should be familiar with the following:

- GP-5: Board Committee Principles
- GP-6: Board Committee Structure
- GP-11: Committee Member Appointment and Resignation
- GP-12: Responsibilities of Board Committee Members
- SFSS Issues Policies

Relevant Documents

The members of this committee should be familiar with the following:

1. [SFU Aboriginal Reconciliation Council Report “Walk This Path With Us”](#)
2. [UNDRIP - UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
3. [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#)
4. [SFU EDI Initiative](#)
5. [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)
6. [International Decade for People of African Descent: Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its mission to Canada.](#)
7. [Anti-Racism Toolkit: Campus Tool-kit for Combatting Racism \(CFS, 2020\)](#)

If you would like to sign in support of this statement, please submit your name [here](#).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12th, 2021

**SFU BLACK CAUCUS RESPONSE TO THE RELEASE OF MACKAY REPORT ON
THE DEC 11 VIOLENT ARREST OF A BLACK SFU ALUMNUS**

President Dr. Joy Johnson,

The SFU Black Caucus and allies released a [statement condemning the actions of SFU Safety and Risk Services](#) - including their employees and contractors - and Burnaby RCMP that resulted in the violent arrest of a Black alumnus on December 11, 2020. At the time of our statement, we demanded a comprehensive public inquiry into the incident and events precipitating it.

We have now seen the [MacKay report summary](#) and are deeply troubled by the conclusions and the process followed in reaching these conclusions. We are also concerned that the full report has not been disclosed to us in detail with personal information removed.

There are a number of troubling elements to the report. To begin, the report takes no note of the duty of care that SFU has to the members of the SFU community, including members of the SFU alumni. The alumnus's status as an SFU alumnus should imply a duty of care by the University as indicated on the SFU alumni webpage: "We believe a lifelong relationship exists between alumni and the University." The report highlights his status as an alumnus, and not a student. We believe this distinction was material in the way this situation was judged; implying, as an alumnus, he was to be automatically excluded from the campus. Yet, we are aware of significant inconsistencies in SFU's own rules and the ways that these rules have been communicated and applied.

Further, nothing in the report explains the violence that was unleashed on the alumnus. Instead, the violent action of the officer was casually described as "the officer deployed his taser to the Alumnus's head." Nothing in the report indicates why the police were justified in this use of force, even if they felt the need to question him. In fact, the report states that the alumnus had communicated that he felt he was being racially profiled: "Throughout his dealings with CPS and the RCMP, the Alumnus, who is Black, suggested that he was being followed, racially profiled and targeted by CPS and the RCMP." In view of this, it is concerning that the report does not state if any witnesses of the altercation were interviewed, thereby suggesting a notable lack of representation from those who may have supported the alumnus. This absence of information and inquiry into the actual escalation, altercation and arrest is also concerning and questionable.

The report indicates that a request for a [Safe Walk](#) was the reason for the incident. This is an inadequate justification as the media has been replete with instances where Black people are seen as a threat for simply existing in white spaces. Hence, someone's fear or discomfort alone could not possibly be used as the justification in light of what we all know about systemic racism. Reaching the conclusion that "CPS could not permit the Alumnus to remain on campus after being alerted to the safe walk request" shows a shocking lack of understanding of how systemic racism plays out in practice.

We know that racism often operates in the differential application of rules. The facts are that many people have been on campus without them being required to produce any identification. The report suggests that one person's fear resulted in the decision to engage in an altercation with this young Black alumnus. Are all calls for Safe Walk associated with interrogation of people on campus? Why did this one? The report claims that "SFU's standard operating procedures" were followed, yet has not outlined exactly how or why the situation escalated.

Further, the conclusion that the "Alumnus was aware at all material times that access to SFU's campuses is restricted to current students, faculty and staff when SFU was at the COVID-19 "High/H1" designation." is not supportable given the alumnus was never interviewed. So, at best, this is conjecture. In fact, the report indicates the alumnus went to Burnaby campus, instead of returning to the Vancouver campus, which clearly suggests he felt he would have been safe there.

For these and other reasons, we wholeheartedly reject the findings of this report and count it as further evidence of systemic racism at SFU.

We demand support for the alumnus - a member of our SFU community - in the form of financial reparation, healing supports, and legal representation, should he need and request it.

We demand that students' requests for de-escalation be heard and that conversations between students and SFU be honoured. We demand that a full public inquiry be done and this full detailed report be released with identifiable information redacted. We demand that the ongoing issue of racial profiling and discrimination at SFU be addressed immediately, including tangible change to SFU's policies and standard operating procedures and policies.

Contact:

SFU Black Caucus

Blackcaucus-contact@sfu.ca

The SFU Black caucus is a coalition of Black students, alumni, faculty and staff across all Simon Fraser University campuses. Below are members of the community and allies in support of this statement.

SFU Black Caucus Community Members, and Allies in Support of this Statement:

June Francis, Director, Institute for Diaspora Research and Engagement, SFU
Henry Daniel, Professor, School for the Contemporary Arts, SFU
Osob Mohamed, President of the Simon Fraser University Student Society (SFSS)
Adjua Akinwumi, PhD Student, School of Communication, SFU
Tsion Gebremedhen, MPH student, FHS, SFU
Jackie Obungah, Student, SFU
Ayaan Ismail, International Studies (2020), SFU
Giovanni HoSang, BSc Computer Science (2020), SFU
Balkees Jama, Board of Director, Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS)
Joy Russell, MA Student, Geography, SFU
David Chariandy, Department of English, Simon Fraser University

-



Dear Faculty Deans, and Department Chairs,

It has come to the attention of the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Council that on November 9th 2020, the Environmental Science Student Union (EVSCSU) and Bachelor of Environment Student Unions (BESU) were notified of their impending eviction from their shared TASC 7470 common room^{1 2} — having to move out by January. This was done without prior consultation, and amidst the COVID-19 pandemic when students are not on campus to defend their space. The last minute notice did not allow for enough time either, considering logistics and impediments as a result of Covid 19.

As of writing this letter, most Student Unions do not have any written agreements to ensure student space is protected³. In addition, there is a lack of consultation between Student Unions and their respective departments.

A recent example of the lack of consultation between students and their respective departments was the eviction of the Political Science (PSSU), History (HSU) and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (GSWS) Student Unions from their common room space in 2018. The eviction was created for the purpose of opening a new teaching assistant's office on the sixth floor of the AQ.

Time and time again, SFU has shown that we as students do not have a say at our own university. As SFU continues to disregard student pushback on increasing tuition for the next two years, while evicting student spaces in the middle of a global pandemic, we believe that this reflects poorly on SFU due to their lack of communication between students and the university. It is unacceptable that students are paying higher tuition fees every year and have no guarantee of their own common room spaces. Common room spaces are essential for students to build a sense of community among their peers. When space is taken away, students have to start over, this disrupts initiatives to build community. With that said, we believe that faculties and departments have a responsibility to their students by designating a space for students to create initiatives and establish familiarity among people within their departments.

Why Common Space is important

Common rooms are a central space for Student Unions to congregate, engage, inspire peers within their community. It provides a space for Student Unions to not only host events, but to store merchandise and supplies as well. A common room provides a central stable space; it feels like home. It creates a separation from the main classroom and workspace and acts as a reprieve for students in their department. It is essential that common spaces are maintained. They allow Departmental Student Union's (DSU) to have spaces within or close to their departments which is important for convenience and familiarity.

There is also the issue of proximity in regards to the location of the Student Union Building (SUB) to the DSU's department, as students will be inconvenienced by travel distance. The objective of the SUB space is different as well, as it is generally an open study and dialogue space for every student group and not specific to any DSU. Since it is an open building, there will be competition due to capacity and booking limitations. As for the Surrey campus, there is no alternative there, Student Unions will have to book a study room or find space on the main campus. Vancouver is even more restricted, having little to no space to accommodate student unions. **Furthermore, it should be up to the DSU to determine which campus is most suitable or appropriate for them to hold a student common room space.**

Common rooms exist in purpose for more specialised student groups in relation to their field of study. It is a guaranteed space which anchors the organization, that acts as an operating and storage area for DSU items; there is no permanent space for the DSU's to store equipment and merchandise safely in the SUB. DSU common room is not a lab space nor a project space, but a social space.

Action Items for Faculty Deans and Department Chairs:

1. Commit to creating dialogue and consultative networks with respective Student Unions in order to:
 - a. Prevent abrupt evictions
 - b. Preserve student space for community-building
2. Work with Student Unions to draft and enter into a collective agreement ensuring:
 - a. Adequate and accessible long-term (perpetual) common room space,
 - b. Engage in proper consultation in advance, regarding any changes to common rooms
3. Guarantee common room spaces for Student Unions at campuses where their departments are primarily located
4. Uphold the needs, opinions and voices of students throughout all outreach processes between Student Unions and their respective departments

It is imperative that common spaces for students are protected as they exist as a means for students and DSUs to create a community on campus. We implore you to open a dialogue with your respective student unions to discuss student space in your department, and begin the process of entering into an agreement to provide students the common room space they deserve.

Signed,

Simon Fraser Student Society Council



Zaid Lari
Chair Of Council,
Science Undergraduate Society



Helen Sofia Pahou
Vice-Chair of Council,
Political Science Student Union



Chloe Homenuke
SFSS Council Representative
Environmental Science Student Union



Bradley Sarandi
SFSS Council Representative
Bachelor of Environment Student Union



Kimia Rezaeian
SFSS Council Representative
Mechatronics Systems Engineering Student
Society



Alan Saunderson
SFSS Council Representative
History Student Union

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

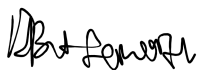


Sara Wong
SFSS Council Representative
Humanities Student Union



Nicolas Bonilla
SFSS Council Representative
Biology Student Union





Devynn Butterworth
SFSS Council Representative
Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies
Student Union



Kyle Newcomb
SFSS Council Representative
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Student
Union



Alea Mohamed
SFSS Council Representative
International Studies Student Union



Kylee Pocrnich
SFSS Council Representative
French Student Union



Elizabeth Giardin
SFSS Council Representative
English Student Union



Nguyen Huong Bui
SFSS Council Representative
Chemistry Student Society



Mahek Khan
SFSS Council Representative
Software Systems Student Society



Sandra Pal
SFSS Council Representative
Economics Student Union





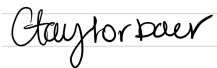
Tiffany Liu
SFSS Council Representative
Psychology Student Union



Justin Chen
SFSS Council Representative
Labour Studies Student Union



Mohnish Farswani
SFSS Council Representative
Business Administration Student Society



Charlotte Taylor-Baer
SFSS Council Representative
Criminology Student Union



Myckland Mathew
SFSS Council Representative
Data Science Student Society



Data Science
STUDENT SOCIETY



Winnie Wu
SFSS Council Representative
Geography Student Union

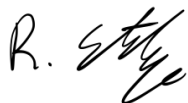


Ashutosh Dubal
SFSS Council Representative
Operations Research Student Union



Tony Yu
SFSS Council Representative
Philosophy Student Union





Ryan Stolys
SFSS Council Representative
Student Athlete Advisory Committee

1. Save the BESU and EVSCSU Common Room:
https://sfss.ca/save-the-besu-and-evscsu-common-room/?fbclid=IwAR2OGc9SU6qzXLU8GjLAYdaU24jLmtN8_Jui_qlqiFaX6titqO1g8w-gZnk
2. SFSS Board of Directors Letter of Support for BESU and EVSCSU:
https://sfss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BESU_EVSCSU_commonroom.pdf
3. SFSS Student Union Common Room Analysis Report:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JmxEo6osLeLfeZlvs4I3H7UNc6KTB18Z/view>

Briefing Note - SFSS Council Remuneration Proposal

Author: VP Finance Corbett Gildersleve

ISSUE

The way the SFSS remunerates student leaders needs to be updated towards providing a stipend in-line with a living wage.

BACKGROUND

With the bylaw changes approved by the membership at the October 26, 2020 Annual General Meeting, a new Board of Directors, now called Council, was created to start for May 1st, 2021.

This new Council is composed of:

- An executive committee of seven
- one representative from each recognized departmental and faculty student union
- one representative from each recognized constituency group
- one representative from each recognized affiliated student group.

Stipends are set in the bylaws for council, executive committee, and IEC members, however the amounts are set in policy. Currently, we also have stipend reduction policies that penalize board members who arrive late to meetings, submit incomplete work reports, and other matters.

An example of the current stipend reduction is that if an Executive is late to a board meeting by more than 10 minutes without previously alerting the chair, they are fined \$50. If they submit a late board report, they are fined \$100.

Research

Previous research into Board stipends was conducted by the Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator in 2015 as well as 2020. Their findings are linked in the appendix.

Living Wage

A living wage is the minimum required full-time wage that covers living costs including housing, clothing, food, transportation, child care, medical expenses, and other related costs. A living wage is calculated by examining the costs of basic goods and services and deriving the lowest possible income one could earn to be able to afford those basic necessities. A living wage is the lowest possible wage that protects the wage-earner from material poverty. It does not cover things like home ownership, credit card debt, savings, caring for elderly family members, etc. It is also calculated for a family of 4 with two children renting a 3 bedroom apartment.

The living wage framework is linked to the end of this briefing note. Overall, a living wage is higher than a minimum wage and it varies from city to city, province to province, and year to year. The living wage in 2019 was set at \$19.50 an hour for Metro Vancouver.

The current stipends for board members works out to around \$14.50/hour (\$1750 month/120 hours) which was set in 2008. **This amount is now just below the minimum wage set in 2020 (\$14.60/hour).** The minimum wage will go up to \$15.20/hour in June 2021. If we were to correct for inflation from 2008 (the last time the Board stipends were increased), the current stipend amount would be \$17.96 for 2021, which is not too far from a living wage for Metro Vancouver.

Due to the Administrative Review and Restructuring conducted over the summer term, the SFSS has more flexibility in the SFSS budget to discuss financial changes to Council and Executive Committee stipends.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

This new governance model gives us an opportunity to review the way students elected to Council and the Executive Committee are remunerated.

This proposal, if passed by the Board, would not go into effect until May 1st, 2021. Future changes to stipends would not go into effect until the following fiscal year as per Bylaw 6-14.

Governance Model

The new governance model has the Council acting as the Board of Directors for the SFSS to oversee larger items like the annual budget, long term contracts and agreements, etc. Within this Council exists an Executive Committee to work with administrators and staff to manage day-to-day issues. The work required to be effective in an Executive role is akin to a full-time job. Some weeks will be busier than others, but the current model is to work at least 60 hours biweekly. For Council members, the expected hours are around 10 hours biweekly. Therefore,

remuneration for both roles needs to be at an appropriate level so that those that need to work full-time for the Society can afford to do so.

Research Findings

- The stipend amounts for members of the Board have not changed since 2008.
- Executive Officer stipends across multiple student societies in 2015 were higher than the SFSS's.
- Councillors have received a \$35 per diem since at least 2014-2015 year
- The Council Chair has received an additional per diem since at least 2017
- Faculty and At-Large Representatives stipends have changed considerably
 - Started out as a small per diem in the 2000s, then a fixed stipend that raised in value until 2008

Comparing executive officer remuneration across multiple student societies has issues, as each student society has different sizes and budgets. Their Executives might have different roles and responsibilities, as well as work expectations. It's better to start from some foundational ideas about remuneration and build from there than just comparing amounts across student societies.

SFSS Demographics

Undergraduate students are highly diverse: racially, culturally, and also in terms of age, gender, socioeconomic status, etc. A living wage helps bridge the socioeconomic gap for students who would like to serve the SFSS community on Council but do not have the family or individual financial resources. Students should not be excluded from contributing their skills and experience because they can't volunteer their hours. Receiving fair remuneration ensures more equitable access so students can work to improve our time at SFU.

Significant Budget Changes in 2020/2021

Due to COVID-19, the 2020/2021 budget had a number of significant updates over the year. Initially we were projected to have up to a \$500,000 deficit due lower estimated enrollments. Fortunately, this did not materialize outside of Fraser International College, who pay SFSS fees through a service agreement. We expect their enrollment numbers to increase once the students are back to in-person classes.

Additionally, we conducted an administrative review and restructuring in the early summer term, which resulted in a smaller administrative team, freeing up around \$400,000/year in future budgets.

Around \$200,000 has been set aside to increase student support and advocacy programming in the form of hiring a Campaign Mobilizer, Black Student Support Coordinator, and an

Accessibility Student Support Coordinator. Other funds have been set aside awaiting the results of the SFSS-CUPE Collective Bargaining which has already started. I would like to use around \$100,000-\$150,000 of these funds to increase the remuneration to a living wage for student leaders in Council and the Executive Committee.

BUDGET ESTIMATES

Each model is designed around a maximum potential budget with full seats, all stipends claimed, and all benefits used. In practice, the amounts will be less due to turnover in Council seats, stipends being reduced, etc.

Current Model

The current model breaks down below and costs the SFSS around \$300,000 a year in stipends, CPP and WCB payments, as well as benefits. It is based on Board members contributing between 60-120 hours a month (depending on position) at \$14.50/hour, and councillors contributing around 10 hours a month to attend Council meetings and sit on committees (if applicable). The Council chair also receives a higher stipend due to added responsibilities.

Fee breakdown:

This costs students around \$11.50/year in student fees.

Current						
Positions	Seats	Per Meeting	Meetings	Subtotal	WCB+CPP	Total
Reps	60	\$35.00	18	\$37,800.00	\$0.00	\$37,835.00
Chair	1	\$110.00	18	\$1,980.00	\$0.00	\$2,090.00
Total						\$39,925.00
Positions	Seats	Stipend	Payments	Subtotal	WCB+CPP	Total
Executives	6	\$875	24	\$126,000.00	\$6,854.40	\$133,729
FARM	10	\$437.50	24	\$105,000.00	\$5,712.00	\$111,150
Benefits						\$19,200.00
Total						\$264,079
Grant Total						\$304,003.90

Redistribution Model

With the removal of Faculty and At-Large Representatives, their stipends can be redistributed to councillors. The main difference is cost is due to expanded board benefits like cellphone and transportation benefits to all council members. These benefits are:

- \$600/year in cell phone bills (up to \$50/month)
- \$600/year in transportation costs (UPass, parking passes, etc.)

Fee breakdown:

This model would cost students around \$15.20/year in student fees.

Redistribution						
Positions	Seats	Per Meeting	Meetings	Subtotal	WCB+CPP	Total
Reps	60	\$120.00	20	\$144,000.00	\$7,833.60	\$151,953.60
Vice Chair	1	\$240.00	20	\$4,800.00	\$261.12	\$5,301.12
						\$73,200.00
Total						\$230,454.72
Positions	Seats	Stipend	Payments	Subtotal	WCB+CPP	Total
Executives	7	\$875	24	\$147,000.00	\$7,996.80	\$155,872
Benefits						\$8,400.00
Total						\$164,272
Grant Total						\$394,726.52

This model would increase the costs by around \$90,000 compared to the current model.

Living Wage Model

This model sets each Council member's stipend to a wage range that increases to a living wage over multiple years. The reason for this is due to some uncertainty with COVID-19 extending into part of the 2021/2022 fiscal year impacting FIC fee revenue. When FIC enrollments go back

to normal, SFSS annual revenue will increase between \$100,000-\$150,000/year. A living wage model includes basic phone and transportation costs, so I have removed them from this model.

Fee breakdown:

For 2021/2022 this model would cost students around \$15.20/year, and the 2022/2023 model would cost students around \$16.90/year.

Positions	Seats	Per Hour	Target Hours	Pay Periods	Monthly	Annual	CPP+WCB	Total
2021/2022								
Executives	7	\$17.50	60	24	\$2,100.00	\$25,200.00	\$1,370.88	\$177,770.88
Reps	50	\$17.50	10	24	\$350.00	\$4,200.00	\$228.48	\$210,228.48
Vice Chair	1	\$17.50	15	24	\$525.00	\$6,300.00	\$342.72	\$6,642.72
Total	58				\$2,975.00	\$35,700.00	\$1,942.08	\$394,642.08
2022/2023								
Executives	7	\$19.50	60	24	\$2,340.00	\$28,080.00	\$1,527.55	\$198,087.55
Reps	50	\$19.50	10	24	\$390.00	\$4,680.00	\$254.59	\$234,254.59
Vice Chair	1	\$19.50	15	24	\$585.00	\$7,020.00	\$381.89	\$7,401.89
Total	58				\$3,315.00	\$39,780.00	\$2,164.03	\$439,744.03

This model would cost around \$90,000/year more than the Current Model for the first year, and then an additional \$50,000/year for the second year.

To be clear, all remuneration models are affordable within the SFSS's budget and **will not** require a request to increase student fees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend adopting the Living Wage Model for Council going forward. The costs compared to the Redistribution Model are similar and it is more straightforward and easier to budget. It sets everyone on the same level in relation to base costs and benefits, with the only difference being hours of commitment due to positional responsibilities.

The Living Wage Model also is in line with the strategic vision of the SFSS, and brings compensation in line with improving Student Financial Health. A living wage also encourages high-quality participation by SFSS leaders, and encourages the full participation of socio-economically marginalized community members. This new governance model requires a high degree of participation by elected SFSS officials to carry out the mission of the society. The elevation of Councillors to legal directors of the society requires compensation commensurate with responsibility. Members of Council are also the legal employers and managers of union-excluded SFSS staff and are legally responsible for oversight of SFSS Human Resources. Overall, the council is responsible not just for policy-setting, but operational oversight of the society.

APPENDIX

[2015 Student Society Executive Officer Remuneration Review](#)

[2021 Board Remuneration Research](#)

[Board Policies](#) (R-12 Stipend Reduction Schedule)

[Budget calculations for each model](#)

[SFU Student Demographics](#)

[SFSS Demographics \(Age\)](#)

[Living Wage Information](#)

[Living Wage Framework](#)

[Inflation Calculator \(Canada\)](#)

[BC Minimum Wage](#)

VP University Relations - Executive Officer Report 03/17 Council Meeting Written Report

Hello everyone!!

Over the last month, I've been working on a number of projects, summarized below!

University Relations

On the University Relations front, the President and I continue to work towards pushing the Burnaby Mountain Gondola to finally becoming a reality. Currently, it requires approval from the Burnaby City Council before it can be discussed by TransLink's Mayors' Council. However, many Burnaby City Councillors are very skeptical about the project. Therefore, Osob and I have been setting up meetings with members of Council to discuss why we think the Gondola is a good investment in students' futures. So far, we have met with Mayor Hurley, Councillor Keithley, and Councillor Daliwahal. We are unsure at this time when the actual vote will happen at the Burnaby City Council, but we have one final campaign we want to push before it does happen.

The University, as they are required to do by University policy, reached out to the SFSS to collect our feedback on SFU's 2021/22 fiscal year budget. You can read [our statement here](#). TL;DR, we are very concerned about the hikes in tuition, and believe it is a mistake, considering the pretty good financial situation of the University, and the fact that we are still in the midst of a global pandemic.

As of late, the University has been engaging in community consultation regarding the new Executive-level position called the Vice-President Peoples, Equity and Inclusion. I attended 1 community meeting where members of the SFU community got to provide concerns and suggestions for the role profile, and one meeting with just student representatives. We have pretty significant issues with the role profile as stands, in that the role itself is not student-facing, it is basically just a glorified HR position, focusing on faculty and staff relations. This is extremely problematic, considering it will create a very lopsided version of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) at SFU, that will leave students behind, and end up causing more harm. We continue to push the University to implement student-facing components into this role.

Governance

As Chair of the Governance Committee, I've been working on a couple of projects. Firstly, the Governance Committee passed and recommended to the Board a development plan for expanding the scope of the [SFSS Issues Policies](#). This development plan was adopted by the Board. Essentially, the Governance Committee will be working with all of the different Committees of the Board to help them develop issues policies that are within their mandate. For example, as Chair of the University and Academic Affairs Committee, I will be helping develop Issues Policies related to University and Academic Affairs (i.e. our belief in free and accessible post-secondary education).

Additionally, the Governance Committee, on request of the Board, has been assisting the Member Services Advisory Committee on the development of an **Events Terms of Reference** and the wording of an amendment to Section 6 of the existing **Clubs Terms of Reference**. These recommendations will be sent back to the Board for approval, once completed.

Transition Steering Committee

As Chair of the Transition Steering Committee, I continue to help spearhead the efforts to transition into our new Governance Structure starting May 1st, 2021. This Committee has established 3 working groups to help it in its work: Governance, Operations, and Training.

I led the **Governance Working Group**, and I have mainly been working alongside members of this group to transform our existing [SFSS Board Policies](#) into SFSS Council Policies, to better compliment the new governance structure that we will be adopting.

Corbett leads the **Training and Communications Working Group**. We just had a meeting this week, and had a very thorough discussion on what format training should happen for incoming Councillors and Executive Officers. We came out of that meeting with a wide array of action items. However, the big takeaway is that, after Council General Elections on Sunday, March 21st, Councillors-Elect will be getting much more information on what they can expect for the start of the next elected-term.

The **Operations Working Group** will be meeting shortly.

Other

Lastly, I was appointed by the Board of Directors as Chair of a working group that will be looking at how to open the Student Union Building for Fall 2021, as we are expecting a near-full return to campuses. This Working Group is half SFSS staff members, a quarter current Board members, and another quarter incoming Executive Officers. This group will look at everything from when the building will open, what services/programming will be offered, and most importantly, what safety protocols must be implemented to keep students and staff safe.

That's it!!

Please reach out to me at vpuniversity@sfss.ca if you have any questions about any of this. Once again, apologies for not being able to attend the Council meeting, hope it was a productive meeting!

Kindly,

Gabe Liosis
VP University Relations
President-Elect