

Dear SFSS Members,

Foremost, we must acknowledge that we all work and study together on the unceded lands of the $x^w m \theta k^w \acute{y} \acute{o} m$ (Musqueam), $S k w x w \acute{u} 7 m e s h$ $\acute{U} x w u m i x w$ (Squamish), $s \acute{a} l i l w \acute{e} t a 7 \ddot{t}$ (Tsleil-Waututh), $k^w i k^w \acute{e} \acute{a} m$ (Kwikwetlem), and Katzie Nations. We are privileged to be able to do our work on Burnaby Mountain which is also known as $L h u k w \prime l h u k w \acute{a} y t e n$ ("Where the bark gets peeled' in spring"). The name originates from the $S k w x w \acute{u} 7 m e s h$ $\acute{U} x w u m i x w$ word for arbutus, $l h u l h u k w \acute{a} y$, which comes from $l h u k w \prime$ (peel), and means "always peeling". Furthermore, the history of these Territories is embedded in colonization and as settlers and uninvited guests, we must listen and give space to Indigenous People(s).

Thank you for electing us into the 2021/2022 Council term year, we are very excited to be serving in our new roles. We are thankful to our Members for being present and voting in the elections, upholding democracy, and doing the best they can during this pandemic. Moreover, we are sending encouragement to students in the midst of this unprecedented and burdensome time. In terms of the fast-approaching semester, we are looking forward to ensuring that the opening of our campuses is done in an equitable manner and in a way that recognizes the intersectional needs of our Members. Your safety and mental wellbeing is our first priority, and we will intentionally take the time to consult with students to ensure that this return to in-person is done in an efficient way.

We would like to recognize the work done by our predecessors, especially during a year where classes, services, and advocacy were provided 100% remotely, and the needs of students were paramount. The 2020/2021 Board year was one which built a foundation of meaningful engagement with our members, prioritized the safety of marginalized students in the SFU community, and amplified the voices of equity-seeking groups and students doing the advocacy work on the ground.

This year, we build on this work through a progressive lens in which we prioritize equitability, inclusivity, and accessibility. In this way, all students including Black, Indigenous, People of Colour, LGBTQIA2S+, disabled, low-income, and international students can be supported and are safe in spaces. We want to recognize the labor that the Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA), First Nations Student Association (FNSEA), International Student Advocates (ISA), Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA), Out on Campus (OOC), and the Women's Centre Collective (WCC); When marginalized students win, we all win.

Furthermore, our Membership thrives on the involvement of students and their passion to make positive change within our Society. As the new Executive Committee, we are extremely grateful and privileged to hold these positions and to work alongside the newly elected SFSS Council under our new governance structure. For years, Council has been consistently sidelined by successive Boards, ignoring any attempts at accountability and censure. However, because of the work that was done collaboratively between last year's Council and Board of Directors, we passed a series of By-Law changes that made Council the top decision-making body. As Executive Officers, we are also voting members of this newly defined Council, and look forward to serving together alongside other Councillors.

Our roles and responsibilities fall under the various portfolios of Internal & Organizational Development, Finance & Services, University & Academic Affairs, External & Community Affairs, Equity & Sustainability, and Events & Student Affairs. For a brief overview of the goals each of our Executive Committee members have for this upcoming year, please see below.

President, Gabe Liosis (he/him)

The President serves as the Chair of Council and the Executive Committee and is responsible for the general facilitation of Society governance and operations. They support the Vice-Presidents with their respective portfolios, and also serve as a Staff Liaison Officer, meaning they deal with a lot of staff, HR, and personnel matters.

Among the responsibilities that fall under the Office of the President, Gabe Liosis, SFSS President for the 2021/2022 Council term, will focus on: supporting new SFSS Councillors with the transition into the new governance structure and roles, creating new services and supports for students by expanding our operational capacities to offer more services, fighting to make sure SFU is dismantling oppressive systems, and restructuring them so that they do not unfairly target Black and Indigenous students, and opening the Student Union Building in a safe and equitable way for Fall 2021.

For Gabe Liosis' Extended Personal Executive Statement, [click here](#)

Internal & Organizational Development, Corbett Gildersleve (he/him)

This role is tasked with ensuring that Council and its committees are filled and supported, enforce and update policy, oversee the set up of Annual General Meeting, ensure ongoing training of Councilors occurs, educate and communicate our

governance structure to members and Council, and oversee the organizing and archiving of Society records.

For Corbett Gildersleve's Extended Personal Executive Statement, [click here](#)

Finance & Services, Almas Phangura (she/her)

The Vice President Finance and Services is responsible for making sure that all the funds of the Society are deposited into the appropriate accounts and keeps a check on the funds received and disbursed by or on behalf of the Society. Additionally, they are accountable for coordinating the preparation of the budget of the Society and dealing with the commercial and legal affairs of the Society. They act as the Chair of the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and as the signing officer for the Society.

The VP Finance and Services is also tasked with preparing detailed written reports on the Society's financial affairs for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.

For Almas Phangura's Extended Personal Executive Statement, [click here](#)

University & Academic Affairs, Serena Bains (she/they)

The University and Academic Affairs portfolio is headed by the Vice President University and Academic Affairs, who is responsible for acting as a liaison between the university and the undergraduate student population to work to improve the undergraduate experience for all students.

Serena Bains, Vice President University and Academic Affairs, will be prioritizing improving tuition and student affordability, increasing the number of low-barrier bursaries, increasing the number of open educational resources, and ensuring that education is free of barriers for BIPOC, low-income, disabled, LGBTQIA2S+, and international students.

For Serena Bains' Extended Personal Executive Statement, [click here](#)

External & Community Affairs, Matthew Provost (he/him)

The External & Community Affairs is responsible for being the liaison with external groups, community members, and lobby the government and relevant stakeholders. This role is intended to represent the society in advocacy efforts and mobilizing campaigns. VPX ensures that the Simon Fraser Student Society is represented at relevant events and meetings, and conferences. This role is key to ensuring that issues are addressed to best support the membership. VPX is also intended to establish, build

and solidify long-lasting relationships with relevant organizations and other community groups that are relevant and could support the SFSS membership.

VP External & Community Affairs is also responsible for chairing the External & Community Affairs Committee, as well as make recommendations on any policies relevant to respective portfolio initiatives. This position can also collaborate with other executive portfolios and support other projects that are relevant and ongoing.

For Matthew Provost's Extended Personal Executive Statement, [click here](#)

Equity & Sustainability, Marie Haddad (she/her)

Amongst the responsibilities within the Vice-President Equity & Sustainability portfolio, Marie will be focusing on; mobilizing and amplifying marginalized groups' intersectional needs, providing educational workshops and training (surrounded around anti-racism and anti-oppression), communication and reciprocal relationships with marginalized and constituency groups, taking stances and establishing policies that encompass justice, and lastly, lobbying on behalf of the Student Society on social and equity issues.

For Marie Haddad's Extended Personal Executive Statement, [click here](#)

Events & Student Affairs, Jess Dela Cruz (she/her)

The role of VPESA is acting as a liaison with Departmental Student Unions (DSU's) Constituency Groups, Clubs, independent student-run societies, and to coordinate student engagement events and activities of the Society. And, to be Chair of the Events Committee or its equivalent, and oversee the establishment and maintenance of Student Unions and Constituency groups and ensuring their meaningful participation within activities of the Society. Furthermore, to make recommendations on the establishment of policy on issues relating to Student Unions, student groups, and other such matters relating to student affairs.

For Jess Dela Cruz's Extended Personal Executive Statement, [click here](#)

This Executive team is looking forward to another solid year of building **Student Power Stronger**, by prioritizing equity and inclusion, pushing for radical progressive change within the SFSS, and building upon the culture of advocacy and activism that has been growing on our campuses, and we are excited for you to join us!

Please always feel free to reach out to us at exec@sfss.ca

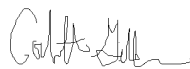
Sending love in solidarity,

SFSS Executive Committee 2021/2022

Gabe Liosis
President



Corbett Gildersleve
Vice-President Internal &
Organizational
Development



Almas Phangura
Vice-President Finance &
Services



Serena Bains
Vice-President University &
Academic Affairs



Matthew Provost
Vice-President External &
Community Affairs



Marie Haddad
Vice-President Equity &
Sustainability



Jess Dela Cruz
Vice-President Events &
Student Affairs

