

2020-2021



simon fraser
student society

COMMUNICATIONS, ART & TECHNOLOGY REP'S EXIT REPORT

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Executive Summary

I have served as a Communication, Art & Technology (FCAT) representative during the 2020/2021 time period. The role of FCAT representative requires:

- To act in support of the faculty and its Department Student Union (DSUs).
- Communicate and inform the DSUs regarding the relevant projects and initiatives carried out by the board.
- Act as a liaison between the board and FCAT DSUs.

The following are the projects and relevant initiatives that I have been involved over the course of last 12 months:

- Summarized the board programs by writing Month in Reviews.
- Sat on FCAT Dean search committee.
- Worked towards the associate membership for FIC students.
- Part of the working group of SFSS re-branding logo.
- Carried out monthly FCAT meetings.
- Events Committee member
- FARM Committee member
- Chair of First Year Engagement Committee (FYEC)

This report will cover details regarding these projects. And lastly, I would like to mention that these 12 months with the board have been full of hardwork and dedication, highs and lows, stress and relief, and needless to say that it was all worth it.



Projects and Initiatives

1. Month in Reviews

The purpose of the monthly reviews is to inform the SFSS members regarding the board's and committee's recent projects and initiatives. Initially, it was a challenge for me to conclude the board's programs in one report. Therefore, I developed a specific outline for the reviews. The outline consisted of summarising the board meetings, summarising the committee meetings, and concluding the report by mentioning events hosted by the SFSS and/or Events committee.

During the board meetings, I would make notes regarding the presentations, motions and discussion items that I would later use for writing the monthly report. Moreover, in a situation of uncertainty, I would refer to the liaison report (thanks to our VP Student life-Jennifer Chou). For the committees initiatives, I would seek the work/committee reports, filled out by the respective committee chairs.

Month in Reviews were not only a good opportunity for me to improve my writing and editing skills, but they also helped me stay informed and up to date with the board's projects and events.



2. Monthly FCAT Meetings

The role of FCAT representative requires to act as a communication bridge between the faculty based DSUs and the SFSS board. One effective way of doing so is by hosting monthly meetings. I continued to carry out these meetings as this was recommended by the previous FCAT representative.

During the summer semester, it was a challenge to host these meetings due to a 12 hour time difference. The meetings did not have a fixed time or schedule. Before the meetings, I would send a when2meet link to find everyone's availability, and then send a zoom invite at the most preferred time. Initially, I would record these meetings, and send the recording to folks who were unable to attend. This however, lead to low attendance in meetings. Moving forward, I decided not to record the meetings as this encouraged the attendees to be present.

Online medium for the meetings due to the pandemic worked perfectly in our favor. This made it convenient for the attendees to be present as well as for me to host the meetings. Since FCAT based DSUs are spread throughout the three campuses, this would have been a major challenge to communicate and coordinate meeting time and location as per everyone's convenience.

The meetings were often attended by SFSS At-large representative, Phum Luckid.



3. Associate membership for FIC students

Fraser International College (FIC) is a separate, private entity located on the Burnaby campus that provides a transition program or a pathway program for international students who are interested in attending SFU or were unable to get into SFU because of their grades or some other academic requirements. FIC students study the same courses, from the same professors, and avail the same services as SFU students. They can use the recreation services, or residences or library services that are basically available to SFU students. But they are not members of the SFSS and therefore, do not have services such as U-pass or health and dental coverage or other services provided by the society.

Starting Jan 2019, SFSS and FIC had a service agreement that was valid for the next two years. FIC students pay roughly around \$119 which will ensure their partial membership towards the SFSS as per the service agreement. Even after the service agreement, FIC students were unable to access the services provided by the SFSS.

During the Summer 2020 semester, I reached out to VP Finance of UBC's Alma Mater Society (AMS) who suggested a by-law change. AMS ensures its membership and services to private colleges that are linked with UBC, similar to FIC and SFU.

During the SFSS AGM, we were able amend a by-law motion that paves a way for private institutions (FIC in this case), to be associate members of SFSS and thus, avail services such as U-Pass and health/dental coverage.

4. Events hosted via Events Committee

It was a worthwhile experience to be a part of the events committee and learn from the chair, Jennifer Chou.

During the Fall semester, I hosted a Friends Trivia Night through Kahoot. The event was a success as approximately 10 members participated. Winners were rewarded with e-gift cards.

After receiving positive feedback for the trivia nights, we decided to host different themes of trivia. During Spring semester, I hosted another trivia night which was based on The Office's theme. Approximately 16 members participated and the winners were rewarded with gift cards.

The trivia nights were a perfect adaptation to online events, and worked perfectly to increase engagement amongst the students .

I was also planning to host a stock market event where students can learn basics about earning profits through the exchange of stocks. I was unable to move forward with this event due to time constraints.

We also hosted 'Stranger Things Murder Mystery Night' event for Halloween. I was unable to contribute to the event as an hour before the event, I had to be rushed to the ER due to a leg injury.



5. Chair for the First Year Engagement Committee (FYEC)

The FYEC was established to increase engagement amongst the first year students. First years refers to students who are in their first, second or third semester. In short, FYEC was basically an Events Committee, but specifically focused towards the first years.

I was nervous to host the meetings as I was unaware of Robert's rules. However, after meeting with Gabe and watching his video on Robert's rules, I felt more comfortable with hosting the meetings.

During the Fall term, we were planning to host a panel discussion for the first years focused towards the topics of enrollment and final exams. However, in respect to time and final exams, we were unable to move forward with the panel discussion. We then hired At-large members for the committee. To make the members comfortable with the committee and Robert's rules, I hosted a 'greet & meet' with the at-large and committee members.

During the Spring term, we were able to host an SFU 101 trivia night for the first years. The kahoot quiz consisted of informative questions regarding SFU. Approximately 10 first years participated in the event. Gift cards were distributed amongst the winners.



Final Thoughts

Running for the FCAT Representative was perhaps the best decision of my university career. Throughout the past 12 months, I have faced countless challenges, and sometimes, felt extremely stressed. But I was lucky, and blessed to have other board members who were not only there to answer my questions, but also to motivate me and push me in doing better. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity, as this has taught me some interesting, valuable and priceless lessons:

1. Team work

I never felt as if I was dealing with projects individually or alone. The team between the board members deserves much appreciation. In a state of confusion or uncertainty, I could always reach out to someone who can better guide or advise me.

2. Student power

Perhaps the most important lesson I learned, or realized, is that the students at SFU hold much importance, value and power if any change is required. We, the students need to collaborate on any sort of issues, and change would very much be possible. It was a cheerful moment to see how student activists collaborated towards SFU team name change, and how this was made possible by students coming together.

3. FCAT DSUs

FCAT has six different DSUs scattered around the three campuses. Therefore, it has been a challenge to effectively communicate with all the DSUs. Moreover, there is a significant lack of collaboration between all the departments. Hopefully, the new changes in SFSS and Council structures will help improve on this factor.

4. Mental health should always be #1

Working for a student society can often be stressful, especially if combined with assignments and/or other responsibilities. During the fall and spring semester, I was working another job while taking upper division courses. Needless to say that it was quite a challenge to manage time. However, I was productively able to manage time by simply taking out time and working on my mental health.

