

2020-2021



# HEALTH SCIENCES REP'S EXIT REPORT

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## Executive Summary

Hi everyone, my name is Nafoni Modil had the pleasure and privilege of serving on the 2020/2021 Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Board as the Health Sciences representative. I also happen to be the last Health Sciences representative to serve on the Board. This term has been a challenging one, given COVID-19, having a completely virtual term, and having to juggle online school and other obligations. However, there were many campaigns, events and resources I took part in and worked to advocate for.

This term I sat on the following committees: University and Academic Affairs (UAA), Faculty and at-large representative members (FARM), Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC). I also sat on a couple of hiring committees, both for SFSS and SFU. Within these roles I was really able to put thought into action and create what I think is meaningful change for our membership.

As a society, I think we created a lot of buzz for ourselves and put SFSS on the map, as we made pretty significant but necessary changes. For example, the restructuring of our governance model, the addition of new roles into the SFSS, the support we gave to our community.

All in all, I am very proud of the work we were able to accomplish this term, and hope that good work will continue to occur within the SFSS for years to come.



## Overview

As the Faculty of Health Sciences Representative, it was in my jurisdiction to advocate and support not only Health Sciences students, but membership of the SFSS as a whole. This was to be done through working with the various faculty and key decision making bodies of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), the Health Sciences Undergraduate Student Union (HSUSU), and Simon Fraser University (SFU).

## Role Breakdown

As stated earlier, I sat on the following committees: University and Academic Affairs (UAA), Faculty and at-large representative members (FARM), Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC). I also sat on a couple of hiring committees, both for SFSS and SFU. Further, I attended bi-weekly Board of Director meetings and development sessions with the rest of the SFSS representatives.

A large part of this role is working in the best interest of students and their needs. Further, it is also imperative to advocate for marginalized students.

## Challenges

An apparent challenge was working online the entire semester. Although it had its pros, being more accessible to those who were not in BC, it also had its cons. Internet connectivity was a fundamental need, so at times when the internet was spotty, connection to others was hard. Further, having everything online meant that it was far easier to



experience what is now known as 'zoom burnout'.

Another challenge was trying to find time to meet with individuals. Schedule conflicts were difficult, as we had to account for different time zones and the fact that the rest of the BOD were also students, so school schedules were in play. Further, some BOD also worked second jobs, volunteers, or had other obligations. There unfortunately was a lot to juggle for some individuals, which goes to show how vital it is to pay living wages to representatives.

## Learning Experiences

This term definitely had an initial learning curve that I had to get over, as this was all so new to me. However, in retrospect this role has allowed me to learn how to listen and engage with new ideas and opinions, as well as how to incorporate a multitude of ideas and opinions to create an end result. It has taught me the importance of community and advocacy, and the need for privileged people in society to step in and do the hard and sometimes uncomfortable work. It has taught me that sometimes, things don't always go as planned, and you have to learn to be able to be adaptable and change your initial plan, which was evident with MARE.



## Projects and Initiatives

### WTF SFSS


An informational podcast meant to teach students about what was occurring within the SFSS, We spoke on the campaigns we were working on, the events that were upcoming, and fun topics to keep students engaged. This project was worked on by myself, VO Student Life Jennifer, and At-Large Rep Balkees, as well as Pariya from CJSF, The SFU Radio show. We discussed topics such as TMX Campaign, the AGM, and the Board restructuring.

### Black History Month

Events Committee, oversaw by VP Student Life Jennifer, held a range of BHM events for students. Environment Rep Anuki and I helped Jennifer work on a few of these. The events included food workshops, dance workshops, movie nights, as well as educational resources for students. We also took the time to uplift and shout out Black organizations within BC, and Black businesses that students could support.

### Mandatory Anti-Racism Education (MARE)

Environment Rep Anuki and I worked on this project over the course of our term. We also had the support of a few other SFSS members, such as Education Rep Emely and VP Student Life Jennifer. The purpose of this group was to bring educational workshops to SFU students so that they could learn and be informed of how racism takes place in our society,



the biases that they may hold towards certain groups of individuals, and the things that they could do to actively denounce racism. We were able to successfully hold two workshops: Anti-Indigenous Racism, facilitated by Dr. Annie Ross, and Anti-Black Racism, facilitated by Terri Rutty who specializes in Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) training. This initiative will be continued on by the next board.

### Board Organizer Hiring Committee

During the fall semester, I sat on the Board Organizer hiring committee alongside President Osob, VP Student Services Matt, and At-Large Baqees. We reviewed resumes and conducted interviews in order to select an individual to fill our Board Organizer role, a key role in the SFSS's campaign operations.

### EDI Specialist Selection Committee

This term, I sat on an SFU hiring committee, the EDI specialist selection committee. This hiring committee is still in progress, and will likely end sometime in the summer months.



## Recommendations

Take the time to make good connections with those around you- it is important to feel safe in these spaces and know that your voice is valued and held in high regard. Talk to your membership, speak to the students in your classes- get to know and understand what they want from their student society. Have a social media presence, it is the easiest way to stay informed and illicit change.

Prioritize yourself, your health and your education. Know your boundaries, and stick to them. This is an elected role, yes, but that does not mean that your wants and needs must be neglected for the sake of the greater good.

## Final Thoughts

What a tremendous honour to be elected into this role, and serve the membership. I am deeply humbled that I was trusted enough to do this role. Though my time in SFSS has come to an end, I hope that the work that we have started will continue on with SFSS. Thank you everyone for a great year.