1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 4:35 PM

2. TERRITORIALACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the xwməθkwəỷ əm (Musqueam), Skwx wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Sel íl witulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kwikwəλ əm (Kwikwetlem) and qicə ý(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	
Applied Science	
Archeology	
Art, Performance, and Cinema Studies	
Asia Canada Studies	
Bachelor of Environment	Evan McFee
Behavioral Neuroscience	Aarthi Srinivasan
Biology	
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology	Kashish Mehta
Business	Vacant
Chemistry	Gwen Bui
Cognitive Science	Joanna Cheong
Communications	Ashran Bharosha
Computing Science	Ryan Vansickle
Criminology	Charlotte Taylor-Baer
DanceVacant	
Data Science Student Union	Warren Ho Kin
Earth Science	Vacant
Economics	Mahindhar Kumar
Education	Jihye (Jin) Choi
Engineering Science	Sarah Raisuddin
English	Liz Giardin
Environmental Science	Chloe Homenuke
Faculty of Applied Science	Vacant
Faculty of Communications, Arts and Technology (FCAC)	Vacant
Film Student Union	Amélia Simard
Fine and Performing Arts	Vacant
French	Kylee Pocrnich
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (Chair)	Devynn Butterworth
Geography	Monikka Tayag
Gerontology Student Union	Vacant
Global Asia Studies Student Union	Eunice Kwok
Health Science	Jocelle Refol

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	J / J /
History	Alan Saunderson
Humanities	Vacant
Indigenous Studies Student Union (ISSU)	Estephanie Henriquez
Interactive Arts and Technology (IAT)	Jeremy Felix
International Studies Student Association (ISSA)	Deanna Short
Labour Studies	Justin Chen
Latin American Studies	Vacant
Linguistics	Micaela Bilot
Mathematics	Ben Tischler
Mechatronics System Engineering	Ryley McWilliams
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry (MBB)	Avneet Kaur
Music Student Union	
Operations Research	
Performing Arts	Vacant
Philosophy	Tony Yu
Physics	Graham Rich
Political Science	Helen Pahou
Psychology	Tiffany Liu
Public Policy	
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)	Zaid Lari
Semester in Dialogue	Vacant
Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS)	Akum Sidhu
Sociology and Anthropology	
Software Systems	Shashank Thanalapati
Statistics and Actuarial Science (SASSA)	Stephanie Chung
Sustainable Community Development	Vacant
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society	Mohammad Al-Sheboul
Theatre Student Union	
Visual Arts	Vacant
World Literature	Sara Aristizabal Castaneda

Constituency Group Representatives

Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA)	Vacant
First Nations Students Association (FNSA)	
International Student Advocates	Fizza Parsayan
Out on Campus Collective (OOC)	Vacant
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)	Linda Kanyamuna
Women Centre Collective (WCC)	

Affiliated Student Groups

Residence Hall's Association (RHA)	Vacant
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SA	AAC)Paul Urs

SFSS Executive Committee

PresidentGabe Liosis	
VP Internal and Organizational Development	Corbett Gildersleve
VP Finance and Services.	
VP University and Academic Affairs	Ū.



VP External and Community Affairs	. Matthew Provost
VP Equity and Sustainability	
VP Events and Student Affairs	. Jess Dela Cruz

3.2 Society Staff

Operations Organizer	Ayesha Khan
Board Organizer	
Administrative Assistant	
Communications Coordinator	Ilham Benttahar

3.3 Council Alternates

English	Emeralde O'Donnell
International Student Advocates (Communication Coordinator)	

3.4 Regrets

English	Liz Giardin
International Student Advocates	
VP External and Community Affairs	•
VP Equity and Sustainability	
Indigenous Studies Student Union (ISSU)	
Henriquez	

3.5 Absent

International Student Advocates (Communication Coordinator)	Kirtana Menon
Global Asia Studies Student Union	Eunice Kwok
Sociology and Anthropology	Kayla Chow
Cognitive Science	Joanna Cheong

3.6 Leave of Absence

President	e]	Lio	osi	S
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3.7 Guests

SFU	Music Coalition	(Chair)	Michael Urba	n

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 CONSENT AGENDA

Be it resolved to adopt the consent agenda by unanimous consent. **CARRIED AS AMENDED UNANIMOUSLY**

4.1.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES-Council Minutes-MOTION COUNCIL 2021-07-28:01

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:

• Council 2021-07-14

4.1.2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES-Committee Minutes-



MOTION COUNCIL 2021-07-28:02

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:

- AC 2021-06-14
- EXEC 2021-07-06
- MSA 2021-04-20
- NOM 2021-06-18
- OCEO 2021-06-24
- OCEO 2021-07-13
- UAA 2021-07-09
- ECAC 2021-04-19
- GOV 2021-04-21
- GOV 2021-07-13
 - Amended to include the following minutes:
 - ECAC 2021-04-19
 - GOV 2021-04-21
 - GOV 2021-07-13

4.1.3. Student-At-Large Committee Appointments -MOTION COUNCIL 2021-07-28:03 SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal "Corbett Gildersleve"

Whereas the Nominations Committee reviewed applications and received recommendations from the relevant chairs;

Be it resolved that Council appoints the following members as student-at-larges to the following committees:

Events and Student Affairs: Kim Bassan Angela Tang Emma Macchabee Justine Charron Ava Quissy

University and Academic Affairs: Priyanka Dhesa Shahed Ejadi

Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour: Nimrit Basra

Accessibility: Kathryn Schumacher Yasmin Rosado Samina Sakhi

First Year Engagement: Karlinna Nguyen



5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2021-07-28:04

Corbett/Jeremy

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Amended to Add New Business Item 8.2 Accessible Course Practices Working group
- Amended to Add New Business Item 8.3 DNA Accessibility Centre Proposal Accessible Course Practices Working group
- Amend to add Section 6. Ratification of Regrets from Liz Giardin, Fizza Parsayan, Matthew Provost, Marie Haddad, Estephanie Henriquez.
- Amended to include Leave of Absence Announcement.

6. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS

Be it resolved to ratify regrets from Liz Giardin, Fizza Parsayan, Matthew Provost, Marie Haddad, Estephanie Henriquez.

CARRIED

7. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

- VPESA discussed the events of the Executive Committee Meeting 2021-07-2. Discussion items at the meeting included Emergency Response Plans, Coops for Executives, as well as in-person events and various hiring committees. Motions passed at the meeting included extending the VPIOD as acting staff liaison to Jul 31st as the President is on leave, ensuring attendance for employees in the SUB optional until August 27th with minimum staffing requirements being met (as determined by President and Operations Organizer) from August 30th to September 27th. Health and Dental plan recommendations and student safety were also discussed In-Camera. VP Finances and Services was appointed to the Building Assistant Hiring Committee as employee representative. During the meeting the SFSS also endorse the following events 'Liberation for Palestine: Collective Action and Solidarity' and 'Settler-Colonialism in Palestine: a History and Investigation of Colonial Aggression' on July 28th and July 30th. VPESA mentioned that some next steps resulting from the Executive meeting included creating guidelines and expectations policies for Councillors attending conferences including post events reports, presentations, and application, fixing leave of absence policy gaps, as well as creating a briefing note for Health and Dental plan recommendations for Council.
- Vice President Internal and Organizational Development (Acting President) mentioned that over the past two weeks he had been helping Vice-Chair organize the Council Agenda, setting up the agenda and running the Executive Committee, Governance Committee, MMPC, Nominating Committee, and the Council



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Development session. He also discussed approving financial items like payroll stipends as well as working with staff concerning payroll and payment server issues. VPIOD also discussed holding check-in meetings with Staff and Executives to talk about their tasks and process on their projects. He also mentioned that he had been interviewed by the Peak about early SFSS advocacy initiatives and the importance of advocacy. VPIOD discussed working with WUSC, SOCA, and ASA around SFSS x WUSC scholarship terms of reference and application process. He also mentioned he had been meeting with SFU IT to discuss the computer procurement process as well as meeting with Studentcare to discuss the Health and Dental plan. VPIOD mentioned that he had been taking part in the Independent Electoral Commission orientation.

- VP Finance and Services mentioned that over the past two weeks she worked with staff to develop a new JotForms for the submission of work reports by Council Members that would allow for a better way to track submission time, worked with the External Auditor. She mentioned that she had also been appointed to the Building Assistant Hiring Committee. VP Finances and Services mentioned that she had been working to resolve the stipend pay out problem due to resignations and missing payment information and referenced the major issues with the payroll system that financial assistants had been working on. VP Finance and Services mentioned that she had finished reviewing work reports for Councillors and Executives for June 2021. She discussed attending the following meetings, Executive Committee, Surrey Transportation Plan where the discussion was centred on sustainable choices of vehicles and prioritizing bike lanes and safety, and Student Engagement where the Fall 2021 return-to-campus was discussed.
- VP University and Academic Affairs mentioned that over the past two weeks they had attended the following meetings: Accessibility Committee, UAA Committee, Steering Committee on Community Engagement on Personal Safety, OOC Programs Assistant Hiring Committee, Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee, Academic Concessions Working Group, Student Town Hall on Return-to-Campus, JOG Subcommittee on Return-To-Campus. They mentioned that projects that are currently in the works include a Burnaby Food Hub Collective, and next steps for the Access for All Campaign.
- VP University and Academic Affairs mentioned that her Associate VP University and Academic Affairs had been working on an Undergraduate survey, a potential campaign associated with the Centre for Accessible Learning, Safety policies on campus as well as deciding on future projects to pursue.
- VP Events and Student Affairs mentioned that over the past two weeks she attended the following meetings, Caucus to support the Free Palestine Event, meeting to support the Double cohort groups (students who have never set foot on campus) with Student Engagement and Retention, Council Development Session, meeting with Student Engagement to work on an in-person event, Executive Committee, Governance Committee, Student Town Hall for Return to Campus, meeting with Dipti Chavan to discuss SUB Opening Events. She mentioned that she provided feedback to the Community Vibrancy Plan Advisory Group to return to in-Person Events, finished the In-Person Event Guidelines, and helped select successful candidates for ESAC with the help of other Executives.

*5:05 PM Mohammad Al-Sheboul joined the meeting

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 10.1 Issues Policy: Course Materials-MOTION COUNCIL 2021-07-28:05 SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal "Corbett Gildersleve" ATTACHMENTS: IP-10: Course Materials

Serena/Jeremy

Whereas the SFSS has previously approved a development plan to create more SFSS Issues Policies on a variety of social, economic and political issues,

Whereas SFSS Issues Policies serve to clarify the stance of the society on social, political and economic issues relating to student life and post-secondary education,

Whereas the SFSS currently has nine issues policies on various topics,

Whereas the previous board had partially drafted an Issues Policy on course materials,

Whereas the Vice President University and Academic Affairs and the Associate Vice President University and Academic Affairs have completed drafting the Issues Policy on course materials,

Be it resolved that the SFSS Council approve and establish the drafted Course Materials Issues Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Abstain: Geography

- VP University and Academic Affairs referred to a Notice of Motion they had sent several weeks ago about this Motion. The Course Materials Issues Policies, supports open educational resources, supports awards to incentivize professors similar to those at UBC, and is against having mandatory materials for courses that have not been included in the course outline prior to registration. The Issues Policy is also against unaffordable course materials.
- VP University and Academic Affairs mentioned that the University and Academic Affairs Committee will be working with Kevin Lam, an SFU professor who has had luck negotiating with Pearson to allow for more affordable price for his students.
- VPIOD voiced support.
- SUS Representative voiced support for the motion. He mentioned needing to purchase ridiculously expensive textbooks for his courses that were rarely used as well as subscription that 'held no substance', but often contained a percentage of the final grade.
- World Literature Representative voiced support for the motion and mentioned that this would be beneficial for students and inquired to what the next steps for this project would look like.
- VPUAA mentioned that the UAA Committee might have to work with departments to encourage professors and departments to make course materials more accessible.
- Communications Representative expressed concern if this motion would impact the quality of education.

8.2 Accessible Course Practices Working group MOTION COUNCIL 2021-07-28:06 SUBMTITED BY: BPK Councillor 'Kashish Mehta'

Kashish/Shashank

Whereas the responsibility for the Accessible course practices initiative has been given over to the UAA committee.

Whereas the UAA committee also has other responsibilities and initiatives to focus on. Additionally, a larger task force is necessary to commit more time to the Accessible course practices initiative in order to delegate tasks.

Be it resolved to strike a Working group dedicated to the Accessible course practices initiative so that this group can be more representative of all the DSUs and work under **and report to** the UAA committee.

Be it further resolved to appoint BPK councilor, Kashish Mehta as the chair of this working group. And to appoint at least 6 other councilors (X) to be a part of this working group.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- BPK Representative stated that the intention for forming a Working Group was so that even if quorum is not met, work can be done. She also mentioned that have a Working Group would allow for more DSU executives who are not Councillors to participate in the Campaign.
- VPIOD highlighted that this Working Group is not limited to those who are on the University and Academic Affairs Committee and that anyone is able to join if they want to.
- VPUAA amended to strike "*in conjunction with*" from the be it resolved clause and replace with "*under and report to*".
 - Vice-Chair encouraged Councillors to personally contact the BPK Representative if they wished to be a part of the Working Group.

8.3 DNA Accessibility Centre Proposal – MOTION COUNCIL 2021-07-28:07 SUBMTITED BY: VP University and Academic Affairs "Serena Bains" ATTACHMENT: Accessibility Centre Proposal

Serena/Kashish

Whereas SFU Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA) has a space in the Student Union Building (SUB),

Whereas SFU DNA has visited their space,

Whereas SFU DNA is in the process of moving into their space,

Be it resolved that the SFSS approves the DNA Accessibility Centre Proposal as attached

POSTPONED

• VPUAA mentioned that since this motion might have costs associated with it, they will postpone it but will use this time as a discussion and bring it to the next



Council meeting. The DNA Accessibility Centre Proposal discusses changes that need to be made to the SFU DNA space including the installation of light dimmers, sink removal, muffling for the HVAC, adding pushbutton door openers, and other necessary change to the space layout.

- VPIOD discussed the history of the space mentioning that the space SFU DNA is occupying was intended as a Copy Centre. He mentioned that further discussion is needed with the Building Manager John Walsh to consider where funding for these changes would come from.
- VPUAA highlighted that there will be an accessibility audit at the start of August which will highlight any other accessibility issues present in the SUB.
- Motion Postponed to August 4th.

*10-minute break taken at 5:45PM

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 SFSS Council Meeting Update

SUBMITTED BY: GSWS Councillor (Vice Chair) "Devynn Butterworth"

- VPESA encouraged Councillors to take personal notes to bring back to their DSUs.
- Software Systems Councillor asked if it is possible to unofficially access the notes taken by the Administrative Assistants, or have the Admin Assistants make summaries and uploading a PDF with one or two points per motion and discussion.
- VPUAA mentioned that Admin Assistants might be able to do this sort of work but highlighted that Councillors should avoid infringing on the work of staff members as this could result in a grievance. They mentioned that there is currently a hiring for another Assistant and that Councillors should respect the labour of their unionized staff.
- VPESA explained that draft minutes are sent to President before approval so that there is no misinformation released to the public. She mentioned that she is taking unofficial notes that Councillors can refer to.

9.2 September Plans: Council Member Groups SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal "Corbett Gildersleve"

- VPIOD inquired as to what welcome events DSUs are planning and mentioned that there would be a relevant survey.
- SUS Councillor mentioned that SUS might host Science FROSH and are hopeful to return to in-person events.
- VPESA reminded Councillors that Welcome Days and Clubs Days will be virtual and, if DSUs are hosting Frosh, they will need to follow in-person event guidelines.
- LSU Councillor mentioned that the LSU wanted to host a Welcome BBQ at the start of September but were unclear about restrictions.
- VPESA reminded Councillors about the SFSS In-Person Event Guidelines &



Checklist. (see link: https://sfss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/In-Person-Event-Guidelines.pdf) as well as the SFSS Contact Tracing Form (see link: https://sfss.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SFSS-Contact-Tracing-Form-1.pdf)

- ESU Alternate inquired as to if there are SFSS guidelines for Student Union Rooms.
- VPESA explained that the SFSS only has guidelines established within the SUB and encouraged Student Unions with their own spaces to set their own rules and guidelines.

9.3 Council Development Sessions Council Development Sessions SUBMITTED BY: VP Internal "Corbett Gildersleve"

- VPIOD explained that VP Equity and Sustainability developed a survey that will be sent out in order to get input from Council on which sessions to host.
- SEESS Councillor highlighted low attendance from Councillors in Development Sessions and mentioned that he had previously raised the issue with the President. He mentioned that something must not be working since Councillors are clearly not attending the sessions.
- Councillors expressed that the various Development Sessions have been beneficial and allow them to develop cultural knowledge. Several Councillors mentioned that sessions with Batul are helpful, and that sessions from Independent Jewish Voices give them the tools to engage with students on ongoing social issues.
- VPESA reminded Councillors that they are paid to attend sessions and that even if it might be hard to pay attention, it is important to participate at the fullest capacity. She acknowledged that more needs to be done to make these sessions more accessible for Councillors.
- VPIOD reminded Councillors that Regrets must be submitted if they are not attending the session. He also mentioned that the Summer is typically intended for planning and learning and that, for Council, the Fall and Spring will be much busier, leaving less time for Development Sessions.
- SUS Councillor mentioned that the number of meetings might be overwhelming certain Councillors as some Councillors are doing over 10 hours of Biweekly work. He suggested making Development Sessions asynchronous as it is difficult having long meetings every Wednesday.
- VPUAA highlighted that if Councillors are exceeding their 10-hour biweekly work, then perhaps by-laws should be changed so that Councillors are not doing more work than they are compensated for.
- SASS Councillor suggested hosting a Climate Change Development Session.
- Vice-Chair suggested hosting a Mental Health/Burn Out Development Session.
- SEESS Councillor suggesting hosting a Development Session on how to be a Councillor.
- SSSS Representative Council mentioned that the Development Session on how to be a Councillor were hosted prior to the start of Council's term and many might not have had time to go back and watch the recordings but would benefit from a live presentation.
- VPIOD encouraged Councillors to watch the recordings as they cover the base of how to be a Councillor and other questions that Councillors might have but



highlighted that more development sessions are needed as the term continues.

- VPUAA mentioned that it might be possible for President to host a session related to Governance and other questions Councillors might have.
- SUS Councillor suggested having a more democratic way of choosing Development Session topics might result in more involvement and engagement from Council. He raised a concern that sometimes Council only hosts a Development Sessions about a particular political situation after a motion has passed and not prior.
- VPESA encouraged Councillors to do their own due diligence and research topics on their own time. She highlighted the need to listen to folks with lived experiences. VPUAA reminded Councillors that because Development Sessions are often scheduled in advance it can be difficult to change topics last minute. They reminded Councillors that resources to do this research is often available and is given in the agenda that is sent out.
- WL Councillor inquired as to if there is a possibility to have agendas earlier.
- Emmanuela Droko mentioned that there will be an Administrative Coordinator role added soon to the administrative team, and that there is currently a hiring committee for a new Administrative Assistant. She highlighted that the current Administrative Assistants are at capacity.
- Mathematics representative highlighted that as per SFSS by-laws, the draft agenda available to the public should be available 2 business days prior to the meeting but currently is only available hours before a meeting.
- VP Finances and Services highlighted that people are at capacity currently and some are preforming more labour than they are being compensated for. She mentioned that Councillors should try to be understand that everyone is trying to do their best.
- VPIOD made a Point of Order.
- Vice-Chair reminded Councillors that keep the common goal of improving the student experience in mind.

10. 30 MINUTES Q&A

• Chair of SFU Music Coalition explained that the SFU Music Coalition which is a student-led Coalition of Music Clubs at SFU is in the process of creating a proposal about acquiring space in the SUB and inquired if there is anything that they should include in their proposal or if there was a template available. VPIOD mentioned that he had been in touch and had sent all the appropriate information and that there was no template needed.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 11.1 [For SFSS Members] Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, August 04th, 2021, 4:30pm 8:30pm (PST) via Zoom [Bi-weekly]
- 11.2 President, Leave of Absence July 17-25, extended to July 31st.
- 11.3 VP Events & Student Affairs, Leave of Absence, August 2nd-6th (Personal Mental



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Health Leave)

12. ATTACHMENTS

12.1 IP-10: Course Materials

12.2 Accessibility Centre Proposal

12.3 Federal Advocacy Report 2021

12.4 Provincial Lobbying Report 2021

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2021-07-28:08

Devynn/Zaid

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29PM. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Course Materials Preamble

The SFU Bookstore reports that students spend hundreds of dollars a year on course materials on top of the ever-increasing cost of tuition. In 2019 and 2020, students spent on average \$244.17 and \$100.00 per semester on course materials, respectively. The SFU Bookstore only records course materials sold through the Bookstore — this does not include expenses from quiz and assignment software.

SFU instructors can help eliminate barriers to education by switching from expensive commercial textbooks to Open Educational Resources (OER). OER refers to openly licensed and freely available textbooks, readings, multi-media files, software, games, assessment tools, and even entire courses. OER are listed under the public domain free from copyright restrictions and can be shared, remixed, and used for commercial and non-commercial purposes. OER enables instructors to customize course material to be specific to their course and what they intend to teach.

Since 2016, faculty-led OER projects funded by the SFU OER Grants Program have saved students over \$1 million. BCcampus reports that open textbook adoptions in British Columbia alone have saved students over \$20 million since 2012. In addition to reducing the financial burden of university expenses, OER are proven to improve student engagement and learning achievement.

Definitions

Open educational resources (OER) are teaching, learning and research resources created with the intention of being freely available to users anywhere. They may include, but are not limited to, textbooks, readings, multi-media files, software, games, assessment tools, and even entire courses.

Policy

The SFSS supports:

- 1. Open access to course materials
- 2. Instructors adopting and/or adapting OER for their courses
- 3. Recognizing and rewarding instructors who create and use OER
- 4. SFU providing students with software they need to complete assignments free of charge
- 5. Proper funding of OER initiatives
- 6. Strengthening and expanding of digital publishing infrastructure to support open textbook and OER creation and adaptation projects
- 7. Facilitation of ongoing open education learning and training opportunities within the SFU Community
- 8. Participation in broader open education initiatives and communities of practice
- 9. The open sharing of teaching practices with the goal of improving education and training at the institutional, professional and individual level

- 10. The creation of a university wide policy allowing the implementation of OER across faculties
- 11. Recognizing the creation and adoption of OER as an example of Educational Leadership Activity in the consideration for appointment, promotion and tenure decisions

The SFSS opposes:

- 1. Expensive publisher textbooks and digital tools
- 2. Requiring students to purchase course materials not specified in the course outline prior to enrollment
- 3. The creation of barriers to education through the use of mandatory unaffordable course materials

DNA Accessibility Centre Proposal

This is a proposal for a series of Facilities requests required to make the DNA Accessibility Centre more accessible, as well as a general proposal for the space.

The DNA Accessibility Centre is comprised of room 1300 and 1301 in the SUB. Room 1300 is 17 feet 6 inches wide and 46 feet 6 inches long, with a 16 inch by 16 inch pillar in the middle of the room. Room 1301 is 11 feet 6 inches wide and 11 feet 9 inches long.

What follows is a list of the accessibility upgrades which we would like installed in each room.

Accessibility Upgrades

Main Room: 1300

Push Button Door Opener

- We need an automatic door opener for the door from the hall to room 1300
- Push button, so that it isn't constantly opening and closing

Lighting Dimmer

- We need to install dimmers for the lighting so that we can adjust the light level in the room
- Adjustable dimming switch near the door
- We will also be purchasing detachable covers for fluorescent lights that make them less abrasive
 - Full Panel Covers
 - Bulb Covers

Vent Muffling

- We need some sort of muffling for the vents in room 1300, as currently they are very loud
- Original plan was to perform soundproofing along with the radio station
- John is supposed to advise on current best form of muffling

Sink Removal

- We need the industrial sink and the backstop valve in the wall to be removed
- Would like the option to install a different sink at a later date (if wanted)

Office: 1301

Push Button Door Opener

- We need an automatic door opener for the door leading from room 1300 to room 1301
- Push button, so that it isn't constantly opening and closing

Lighting Dimmer

- We need to install dimmers for the lighting so that we can adjust the light level in the room
- Adjustable dimming switch near the door
- We will also be purchasing detachable covers for fluorescent lights that make them less abrasive
 - Full Panel Covers
 - Bulb Covers

Potential Space Layout

The image below is a potential layout of the space. It has not yet been confirmed or approved by DNA officially, but this is the likely to be close to the final layout, and can be used as a temporary guide for planning upgrades.



Staff Area - Orange

- Requires space for two staff members Accessibility Coordinator and Accessibility Assistant
- Front desk closest to the door, is for Coordinator so they can greet newcomers
- Back desk for assistant, a little bit more insulated for quieter work

Welcome and Hydration Station - Light Blue

- Hooks for jackets and bags
- Board for rules, art, etc.
- Water cooler with cold and hot water
- Side table with free pamphlets, buttons, etc.

Library and Resource Area(s) - Purple

- Two bookshelves providing space for books, media and other materials to be rented out and returned later, on either side of the lounge
- The one between the staff area and the lounge would be short, so that the coordinator can keep watch on the lounge
- The one between the lounge and the study space would be taller, allowing for some privacy and reduced noise, will need to be floor mounted for safety

Lounge - Red

- Furniture should be movable to accommodate different uses of the space
- Firm couch basic SUB one
- Soft couch <u>example</u>
- Armchair
- A few empty spots for wheelchairs
- Portable projector
- Side table beside south couch could put another beside north couch if it fits

Quiet Room - Dark Blue

- The quiet room (room 1300) would have a couch on the east side, separated from the door by a curtain
- There would be a table in there with rules and supplies like earplugs and ear defenders

Study Space & Accessible Computer Space - Green

- Accessible computer and printer against south wall probably small printer, though could do business printer if wanted
- Empty desk might need to not have it if there isn't space

• Brailler - Allows people to type out Braille, would need to be stocked with Braille paper

Other Notes

- The accessibility upgrades are the most urgent requests it is likely there will be more after the accessibility audit is undertaken
- The nearby gender neutral washroom (room 1140) was looked into and was found to be lacking automatic doors also
- There will likely need to be curtain rod installation in the quiet room in the future, but this has not yet been confirmed
- Furniture has not yet been purchased, and will be as soon as we have the layout confirmed by DNA

simon fraser student society

THE SFSS ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Recommendations to the Government of British Columbia



INTRODUCTION

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) is a student-led non-profit organisation that represents over 25,000 undergraduate students across the three campuses of Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby, Vancouver and Surrey, British Columbia. Our mission is to advocate for students, build student power, and provide resources and services that represent, connect, and benefit our membership.

The SFSS is governed by an elected Board of Directors comprised of 16 undergraduate students. Board Committees and Student Council, as well as permanent staff, help the SFSS achieve our mission daily. The External and Community Affairs Committee of the SFSS works to identify and prioritize issues of undergraduate student concern and advocate on students' behalf to external bodies, including the Government of B.C. (the Province). Since 2018, we have made the following achievements:

- Successfully lobbying the provincial government to eliminate interest on the provincial portion of student loans, saving graduates an estimated
 \$22 million in 2019/2020;
- Lobbying the provincial government for \$5 million in funding towards open education resources (OERs), of which \$3.26 million was pledged in 2019;
- Advising the provincial government on the housing affordability issues faced by SFU students, resulting in a \$73 million loan being allocated towards building on-campus student housing at SFU, providing an additional 1,971 beds;
 - Receiving recognition in both MP Terry Beech's "Condensed Policy Timeline for the Burnaby Mountain Tank Farm" regarding the Board's letter to the National Energy Board (now the

Canada Energy Regulator) on the reconsideration of the Trans Mountain pipeline project, and in MP Peter Julian's letter of endorsement for the Burnaby Mountain Gondola to the Mayor of Burnaby regarding the Board's support of the project;

- Successfully recommending that the Canada Energy Regulator revise Condition 124 of the Trans Mountain Expansion project to incorporate stakeholder consultation into the Emergency Management Program for the project;
- Being recognized by the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Canadian Minister of Accessibility, as the first university in Canada to meet with members of the Canadian government in Ottawa to advocate for students with disabilities;
- Working with other BC student associations, postsecondary institutions and TransLink to renew the U-Pass program until 2025, ensuring rates are kept affordable for students;
- Lobbying the provincial government to reintroduce upfront, needs-based grants for students, resulting in the new B.C. Access Grant that provides 40,000 students up to \$1,000 a year for four-year programs; and
- Lobbying the federal government to consider broadening eligibility requirements for the CERB to include students, leading to the proposed introduction of the CESB to support students struggling to find work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following report provides the SFSS' recommendations to the Province on issues that are most important to our members. For more information, please contact Samad Raza, VP External Relations, at vpexternal@sfss.ca.

Operating Grants and Operating Funding Model for Post-Secondary Institutions

Background

The SFSS appreciates the commitment of the Province to increase the annual operating grant contribution to post-secondary institutions, including SFU, particularly the large increase from fiscal year 2018/2019 to fiscal year 2020/2021^{1,2}. However, these increases do not reverse the effects of the stagnant and even decreasing annual operating grants over the last few decades. In 1979, nearly 90% of operating revenue for B.C. post-secondary institutions came from federal or provincial sources³, compared to just 47.4% from both levels of government in 2018⁴. In 2015, tuition revenue surpassed provincial funding as the main source of operating revenue for SFU, with 36% of operating revenue coming from tuition, and 31% from the Province in 2019⁵. Per course unit, tuition at SFU has risen 20% since 2010 for domestic undergraduate students, 57% for international undergraduate students beginning their studies prior to September 2017, and 66% for international students who began their studies in Fall 2017 or later^{6,7}. Comparatively, inflation has risen 17% since 2010⁸.

COURSE UNIT TUITION INCREASE:



57%

Domestic Students: **20%**

International Students:

Rationale

According to Statistics Canada, in 2016⁹ more than half of undergraduate students completed their studies with about \$26,000 debt at graduation. In 2005, 54% of undergraduate students graduated with an average debt amount of \$13,600¹⁰, which would only amount to \$16,368 in 2016 dollars¹¹.



Therefore, the average debt of post-secondary graduates has nearly doubled over the past decade. Increasing student debts are one of many factors that can affect students' education and quality of life, and more importantly, act as a barrier for them to continue their studies¹². Evaluating and revising the current operational funding model for post-secondary institutions in B.C., and ultimately increasing operating grants, will decrease the reliance on students, particularly international students, to pay for the operating costs of universities and colleges across the province.

Recommendations

The SFSS recommends that the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training commits to evaluating and revising the operating funding model for postsecondary institutions and increases post-secondary operating grants, bringing funding closer in line with the 1979 funding model. This may require working with the federal government to increase the Canada Social Transfer to B.C.

International Post-Secondary Student MSP

Background

As of January 1, 2020, international students studying in British Columbia are required to pay Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums of \$75 per month, up nearly double the former reduced premium payment of \$37.50 which was established in September 2019¹³.



International students' MSP premiums has risen to **2x more**

than the initial payment of \$37.50

MSP premiums cover primary medical costs whereas secondary medical insurance, which is mandatory for international students as per post-secondary institution requirements, covers secondary costs such as vision or dental care. International undergraduate students at SFU will be required to enroll in MSP after three months of living in the province and are still automatically enrolled in the guard.me insurance plan to cover primary medical premiums in lieu of MSP premiums, with a cost of \$281 per term, or \$70.25 per month¹⁴. Thus, although the introduction of an MSP premium of \$75 a month results in a verv small monthly increase from the existing guard. me premium of \$70.25 per month, it creates a burden on students who will now have to opt-out of both the guard.me program and enroll in MSP. Although MSP was briefly waived for international students at the height of the pandemic, it has since been reinstated.

Rationale

While the SFSS applauds the Province for extending public healthcare coverage to international students, we are concerned that increasing the monthly cost of this coverage puts an unfair burden on international post-secondary students. International students already face barriers such the lack of a support system in Canada, challenges accessing the labour market, and learning how to navigate banking and finances as a young adult in a new country¹⁵. Having to opt-out and enroll in two separate programs can be a large challenge for students already facing these barriers. Though the fee increase may be modest, this increase highlights the dependence on international students to contribute a disproportionate amount to the funding of programs and services, from post-secondary institution operating costs to provincial healthcare.

Recommendations

Reduce or eliminate MSP premiums for international post-secondary students



International Student Tuition Cap

Background

International undergraduate tuition in B.C. rose by an average of 34% from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019¹⁶. Comparatively, domestic undergraduate tuition rose 11% in that same period. Domestic student tuition increases are capped at 2% per year as per the provincial Tuition Limit Policy, whereas international student fees are not covered by provincial funding or regulations.

GENERAL TUITION INCREASE:





Domestic Students: 11% 34% Omestic Students: limit of 2% increase International Students: no limit

Thus, international student fees are set by individual post-secondary institutions "in the context of the competitive global market"¹⁷. Tuition fees provide over a third of B.C. universities' operating revenue, up from just 10% in 1979¹⁸. As previously mentioned, in 2015, tuition surpassed provincial government funding as the number one source of revenue for SFU, and in 2018, international student tuition outpaced domestic tuition as SFU's greatest source of tuition revenue¹⁹. These funding decreases coupled with a lack of government policy to keep international tuition in line with inflation is making postsecondary education in British Columbia increasingly unattainable for foreign students.

Rationale

In 2016, international student spending contributed over \$3.7 billion to the B.C. economy, 21.6% of B.C.'s GDP for that year²⁰.



international students contributed \$3.7 billion to the BC economy

Across Canada, they contributed \$2.3 billion in tax revenue in 2015. International student enrolment even benefits domestic students - for example, at North Island College on Vancouver Island, revenue from international students allowed them to enroll an additional 688 domestic students in 2017²¹. However, both the province and post-secondary institutions are currently economically vulnerable, as institutions would lose a major portion of their operating revenue if international student enrollment dropped, and the government would lose their large contributions to the economy. For example, when international student enrolment dropped in 2009 due to the global financial crisis, SFU ran an operating deficit. Post-secondary institutions are facing a similar crisis today as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A comprehensive policy that creates both cost stability and predictability for international students and ensures international student enrollment can benefit institutions, local communities and the B.C. economy is necessary. The Tuition Limit Policy should be adapted to include international students, providing them the stability and predictability they need to pursue education in Canada.

Recommendations

Revise the Tuition Limit Policy to limit international student tuition increases to 2% annually, bringing it in line with domestic student tuition.

Funding for Post-Secondary Sexual Violence Prevention and Support

Background

On May 19, 2016, BC adopted the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (the Act), obliging all universities in BC to adopt a policy regulating a standardized response to allegations of sexual violence and misconduct by May 2017. The Act mandates a report on the policy yearly, review of the policy every 3 years, and permits the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (MAEST) to request a survey on the efficacy of the policy and procedures at any time. In Budget 2018, the province allocated \$5 million towards "Supporting Women and Children Affected by Violence" however, this budget allocation does not speak to sexual violence or more specifically, campus sexual violence. There are limited statistics on sexual assault on campuses, in part due to low levels of reporting of instances. In Canada, only 33 out of 1000 sexual violence cases reach law enforcement²². However, a Canadian survey found that 20% of female post-secondary students, 47% of LGBTQIA2S+ post-secondary students, and 7% of male post-secondary students have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives²³.

SEXUAL ASSAULTS CASES:



Intersecting marginalised social identities including women, trans and gender nonconforming people, queer people, people of colour, Indigenous Peoples, people with lower socioeconomic status, and disabled people are far more likely to experience sexual violence than the general population.

Rationale

All post-secondary institutions in British Columbia have a sexual violence and misconduct policy; however, not all have the means to support such a policy. The purpose of such a policy is to both prevent and respond to instances of sexual misconduct by discussing it with students and promote a safe, welcoming culture free from sexual misconduct and violence. The impacts of sexual violence on the survivors/victims are long-term and include mental health issues, physical injury; pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, flashbacks; self-harming coping mechanisms: feelings of vulnerability and feeling unsafe; and impacts on their personal or professional life²⁴. People who experience sexual violence are more likely to struggle academically for many of these reasons and drop out of postsecondary education. To address campus sexual assault, prevention (which includes awareness), education, and response (including support networks for survivors) work is necessary, in addition to the reporting requirements to the BC government as required by the Act. While SFU has a Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Office, implementing these components can be difficult due to lack of trained staff and lack of funding for smaller institutions.

Recommendations

Provide smaller post-secondary institutions in B.C. with greater funding through MAEST's sexual violence and support working group to support the implementation and enforcement of their sexual violence and misconduct policy.

Race-Based Data Collection

Background

On June 23, 2020, Vancouver City Council approved a motion to urge the federal government, the Province and local health authorities to collect and report disaggregated, socio-demographic and race-based data to inform health and social service interventions that addresses systemic and structural barriers; ensuring that the collection of data is led by critical race researchers who identify as having racialized identities and experiences and is not used for any other purposes. A member of the SFSS Board of Directors spoke on behalf of the SFSS in support of this motion. Race-based data collection is supported by many organisations across Canada, including Black in B.C., Tulayan Filipino Diaspora Society, Hogan's Alley Society, the Canadian Public Health Association, and the B.C. Office of the Human **Rights Commissioner.**

Rationale

Race-based data collection seeks to use data to ensure that healthcare is equally accessible to all populations. The World Health Organization states that 'develop effective prevention strategies, countries need to improve their information", revealing the need for accurate, comprehensive data²⁵. Race also intersects with other demographic factors such as socio-economic status, pre-existing health conditions, housing, and labour market access to name a few²⁶. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the structural and systemic inequities that exist in healthcare systems across Canada, as Black, Indigenous, and other racialized communities have experienced higher coronavirus rates than the general population; however, accurate numbers are not available. In the United States, where race-based data is collected, Indigenous peoples and Hispanic or Latino persons are 2.4 times and 2.3 times

more likely, respectively, to die from the coronavirus than non-Hispanic white persons, and Black or African American persons are 2.9 times more likely to be hospitalized with the virus²⁷.

IN THE UNITED STATES...

Indigenous, Hispanic or Latinos are

2.3-2.4x more likely to pass away from COVID-19





Black/African Americans are **2.9X** more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19

The pandemic has also exacerbated economic inequalities that disproportionally affect racialized people. The use of big data, or large amounts of data in volume, velocity and variety, in the healthcare sector shows promise for improving both health outcomes and controlling costs²⁸.

Recommendations

Collect race-based and other socio-demographic data, ensuring the initiative is led by BIPOC researchers and co-owned by racialized communities and data is only used for the purpose of eradicating systemic inequities in the health and social services sectors.



Abolishment of provincial police forces and redirection of funds

Background

The SFSS is pleased that the Legislative Assembly appointed the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act in 2020 to review the role of police with regards to mental health and wellness, harm reduction, and addictions, and to examine systemic racism within B.C.'s police agencies. As there are several policing bodies under provincial jurisdiction, including detachment policing units, transit police, E-Division RCMP, and other integrated teams throughout the province, the Province has a large role to play in addressing systemic and structural racism in policing in British Columbia. There is increasing evidence in Canada that both Indigenous and Black peoples are overrepresented in several areas used to measure structural racism than other Canadians, including in criminal justice. One third of those shot and killed by RCMP police officers between 2007 and 2017 were Indigenous, and, according to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, a Black person is over 20 times more likely to be shot and killed by police than a white person²⁹.



Black individuals are **20X** more likely to be shot by police

In the United States, Indigenous and Black youth are more likely to be incarcerated for offences than their white peers, even though the infractions they committed were often nonperson offences such as drug, public order, or property crimes³⁰. Indigenous and Black Canadians are also more likely to die during wellness checks, which aim to assist individuals experiencing mental health crises, conducted by the police. It is clear that the current criminal justice

system is disproportionately harming marginalised communities across North America.

Rationale

As reported by Statistics Canada, between 50% to 80% of the calls police respond to are non-criminal, including alarms, disturbances, domestic disputes, traffic accidents, sick or injured persons, overdoses, and mental health-related calls³¹. There is little proof that punishing acts of violence prevents further violence.

50-80%

of calls to the police are non-criminal

Community organizers across North America advocate for the reallocation of police budget funds to social services that address the root causes of public health and safety issues, such as accessible mental health services, addiction services, other health services, services for marginally-housed and unhoused persons and homelessness prevention programs, recreation and/or community centres, after-school programs, and community-based de-escalation services. Research has shown that these programs have positive benefits; for example, communitybased mental health interventions, where youth displaying mental health and substance abuse issues can remain with their families, have been shown to result in successful treatment outcomes³².

Recommendations

The SFSS supports abolishment of police forces under provincial jurisdiction and the reallocation of funds to finance community-based social and health services that address the root cause of public health and safety issues and prioritize Black and Indigenous peoples' safety, as supported by both academic and community research.

Introduce universal accessibility legislation that applies to public institutions and businesses in BC

Background

The SFSS participated in the Accessibility through Legislation consultation in 2019 to encourage the adopting of legislation that promotes a culture of accessibility and inclusion within the province of British Columbia. Creating a more inclusive society means upholding the principles of universal design through legislation, but also promoting a culture where all citizens have a greater awareness and understanding of disabilities. Other jurisdictions in Canada, including Ontario and the Government of Canada, have legislation that promotes accessibility in a variety of different spaces and facets of public life. British Columbia may not be a leader in accessibility legislation in Canada, but by examining best practices and success stories in other jurisdictions, we can become an innovator.

Rationale

The SFSS appreciates the broad scope of the proposed accessibility legislation by the Province. Maintaining a broad scope will allow for greater inclusion of a range of disabilities, particularly mental health disabilities, which affect 7% of people with disabilities in Canada³³. Furthermore, among youth 15 to 25 with disabilities, 60% identify as having a mental health disabilities of particular importance to our membership.



60% of youth with a disability have a mental health disorder

For example, currently the only legislation in B.C. that covers service animals is the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*, and therapy and emotional support animals that can provide assistance to those with mental health disabilities such as anxiety, are not included³⁴. Ensuring the principles of universal design, which is inclusive of a broader range of users and puts the onus on the group offering the service, rather than the disabled person/person with the disability, is critical to the success of this legislation. Universal design is more proactive and inclusive than the accommodation model³⁵.

Recommendations

The SFSS would like the province to ensure the scope of the legislation is broad enough to apply to every person or organisation in the public and private sector in the province. Private organisations should be subject to legislation, similar to the *Accessibility* for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) in Ontario. Expanding the definition of accessibility, and further reviewing other pieces of legislation that may hinder accessibility for individuals with disabilities, should be undertaken. Supporting organisations that may have difficulty with the financial ramifications of creating accessible spaces, communications, employment practices, and services is also important to the SFSS, to ensure every organisation and individual in the province is able to move together towards a more accessible future.





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SFSS Recommendations to the Federal Government 2020-21

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INTRODUCTION

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) is a student-led non-profit organisation that represents over 25,000 undergraduate students across the three campuses of Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Burnaby, Vancouver and Surrey, British Columbia. Our mission is to advocate for students, build student power, and provide resources and services that represent, connect, and benefit our membership.

The SFSS is governed by an elected Board of Directors comprised of 16 undergraduate students. Board Committees and Student Council, as well as permanent staff, help the SFSS achieve our mission daily. The External and Community Affairs Committee of the SFSS works to identify and prioritize issues of undergraduate student concern and advocate on students' behalf to external bodies, including the Government of Canada. Since 2018, we have made the following achievements:

- Successfully lobbying the provincial government to eliminate interest on the provincial portion of student loans, saving graduates an estimated \$22 million in 2019/2020;
- Lobbying the provincial government for \$5 million in funding towards open education resources (OERs), of which \$3.26 million was pledged in 2019;
- Advising the provincial government on the housing affordability issues faced by SFU students, resulting in a \$73 million loan being allocated towards building on-campus student housing at SFU, providing an additional 1,971 beds;
- Receiving recognition in both MP Terry Beech's
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Canada Energy Regulator) on the reconsideration of the Trans Mountain pipeline project, and in MP Peter Julian's letter of endorsement for the Burnaby Mountain Gondola to the Mayor of Burnaby regarding the Board's support of the project;

- Successfully recommending that the Canada Energy Regulator revise Condition 124 of the Trans Mountain Expansion project to incorporate stakeholder consultation into the Emergency Management Program for the project;
- Being recognized by the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Canadian Minister of Accessibility, as the first university in Canada to meet with members of the Canadian government in Ottawa to advocate for students with disabilities;
 - Working with other BC student associations, postsecondary institutions and TransLink to renew the U-Pass program until 2025, ensuring rates are kept affordable for students;

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- Lobbying the provincial government to reintroduce upfront, needs-based grants for students, resulting in the new B.C. Access Grant that provides 40,000 students up to \$1,000 a year for four-year programs; and
- Lobbying the federal government to consider broadening eligibility requirements for the CERB to include students, leading to the proposed introduction of the CESB to support students struggling to find work during the COVID-19 pandemic

The following report provides the SFSS' recommendations to the Province on issues that are most important to our members. For more information, please contact Samad Raza, VP External Relations, at <u>vpexternal@sfss.ca.</u>

Eliminate interest on the federal portion of Canada Student Loans indefinitely

Background

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the variable interest rate for federal student loans in Canada sat at prime, which was lowered from prime +2.5% in November 2019¹. Comparatively, variable mortgage rates are as low as prime -1.0% as of December 2020. Normally, students are required to begin paying back their loans six months after completing their education, at which time interest would begin to accrue on the loan. However, a temporary suspension of Canada Student Loan interest in light of the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended to the 2021/2022 year, as detailed in the Fall Economic Statement 2020².

Student repayment of debt has a monumental impact on the economy - more than one in ten Canada Student Loans Program recipients default on their loans, creating \$163 million in written off loans for the Canadian government in 2019³.

One in ten Canada Student Loans Program recipients default on their loans

New graduates can accumulate a significant amount of financial debt due to interest charged on their loans, which particularly disadvantages low-income and marginalized graduates early in their careers. To ease the financial burden of student debt during the economic recovery, the SFSS supports making the temporary suspension of the federal portion of Canada Student Loans interest permanent. This would ease the burden of loan repayment for students and thus reduce the financial burden of defaulted loans on the Government of Canada.

Rationale

The cost of education – including tuition, student fees, books, and living expenses – is rising much faster than inflation and income levels. The result is a significant debt burden on students. For students graduating during the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic implications are dire – a 2019 RBC study found that recent university graduates that received their degree during a recession were more likely to be under- or unemployed compared to their peers, increasing the chance of wage losses in the long term⁴. These graduates are less likely to buy houses, save for retirement or emergencies, have children, and contribute to the economy. As university graduates earn, on average, 58.0% more for women and 47.2% more for men than those with a high school diploma, the consequences of graduating in an economic downturn are considerable⁵. In 2015, 54% of new graduates with a Bachelor's degree left school with student loan debt averaging \$28,000, an increase of 37% since 2000⁶. Eliminating student loan interest not only relieves some of this debt burden for students - it demonstrates the Government of Canada's commitment to student success.



Provide \$375 million in permanent funds for a Transit Congestion Relief Fund for Metro Vancouver

Background

TransLink, the transit authority and operator in Metro Vancouver, provides a discounted transit pass for students across the region. Nearly 95 percent of SFU undergraduate students consider reliable TransLink services important or very important⁷. This figure is unsurprising, as 88 percent of SFU students regularly commute to school on public transit, compared to the national average of 57 percent⁸. Furthermore, SFU students have an average transit commute time of 95 minutes roundtrip, compared to the national average of just 50 minutes.

> **95%** of SFU undergraduate students consider TransLink services important or very important

88% of SFU undergraduate students commute to school

Average Transit Commute Time



Investments in public transit in Metro Vancouver not only support the building of a greener and more innovative economy, but students' academic futures and well-being. Increasing demand, long wait times and unpredictable weather conditions often pose a challenge for students travelling to SFU campuses by public transit. Two project proposals made by TransLink can reduce wait times and connections for SFU students – the Surrey Langley SkyTrain and the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project.



Surrey Langley SkyTrain & the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project

can reduce commute times for SFU undergraduate students

Both projects would provide students with reliable and sustainable transportation options, regardless of weather, helping to connect SFU's two largest campuses. The SFSS supports the provision of permanent funds of \$3 billion in 2019 dollars for public transit in British Columbia, with \$375 million from this fund committed to a Transit Congestion Relief Fund for Metro Vancouver as requested by the Metro Vancouver Mayors' Council⁹ to subsidise these projects, among others. The SFSS is extremely pleased that the Government of Canada has pledged to spend \$14.9 billion on public transit across the country, including permanent transit funding of \$3

Provide \$375 million in permanent funds for a Transit Congestion Relief Fund for Metro Vancouver

billion per year beginning in 2026¹⁰, and we hope some of this funding will be dedicated to a Transit Congestion Relief Fund for our region.

Rationale

Sustainable transportation, which includes public transit, active transportation such as walking or biking, and even carpooling, has been shown to have many benefits, including contributing less to pollution, reducing traffic congestion and accidents, improving health, and reducing stress¹¹. Transitoriented development is a key driving force of both sustainable mobility and sustainable urbanization¹². Increasing funding for public transit would allow for not only more sustainable transit development, but greener and more resilient land use and urban development planning Metro Vancouver, Canada's third largest metropolitan area. As per the integrated bilateral agreement between Infrastructure Canada and the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada is expected to contribute 40 percent towards new public transit construction and expansion¹³.

Build back a better Canada post-pandemic by integrating the Six Principles of a Just Recovery

Background

In April 2020, the SFSS administered a survey to all undergraduate students at SFU to better understand how the SFSS can support and advocate for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey found that 35.7% of undergraduates' current financial position prevented them from enrolling in summer semester classes¹⁴. Unemployment for those aged 15-24 reached a peak of 27.2% in April 2020¹⁵, while universities across the country were still raising tuition.



35.7% of undergraduates' current financial position prevented them from enrolling in summer semester classes While we recognize domestic students can now receive the Canadian Emergency Student Benefit (CESB), providing them up to \$1,250 per month and \$2,000 for students with disabilities or dependents, it is not enough for students to live on in a metropolitan area where the average rent price for a 1-bedroom apartment is over \$1,100 per month¹⁶. Additionally, too many students do not have access to federal support during this pandemic, including international students. In 2016, international students' economic activities contributed \$15.5 billion to the Canadian economy and \$2.8 billion in tax revenue, supporting 158,300 jobs¹⁷. It would be a great disservice to the Canadian economy if enrollment numbers of international students dropped significantly due to artificially created barriers. Furthermore, according to our student survey, almost 50% of students reported that they are experiencing mental health issues, some of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.



Almost **50%** of students reported that they are experiencing mental health issues

We have also seen countless examples of systemic racism, from violence perpetuated against Asian Canadians, to lack of social safety nets for racialized migrant farm workers, to the systemic inequities that disproportionately affect Black and Indigenous Canadians such as police brutality and environmental racism¹⁸. We must build back a better Canada.



Unemployment for those aged 15-24 reached a peak of

27.2% in April 2020

Build back a better Canada post-pandemic by integrating the Six Principles of a Just Recovery

Rationale

We urge the Government of Canada to follow the Just Recovery principles¹⁹ that have been endorsed by the SFSS and over 400 organizations across Canada, which are:

- Put people's health and wellbeing first, no exceptions.
- Strengthen the social safety net and provide relief directly to people.
- Prioritize the needs of workers and communities.
- Build resilience to prevent future crises.
- Build solidarity and equity across communities, generations, and borders.
- Uphold Indigenous rights and work in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

The Canadian response to COVID-19 should be based on these guiding principles as it is important that we do not go back to business as usual. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the interconnected issues of social, health, environmental, and economic inequities that the current colonial capitalist system perpetuates²⁰. Supports like the \$9 billion in funding that the Government of Canada provided post-secondary students is only the beginning. We are at a crossroads, and we call on the Government of Canada to ensure the physical, mental, and financial health of all Canadians across all intersecting levels as we rebuild a resilient Canada that everyone can be part of.



Suspend the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and ensure the safety of the surrounding community

Background

The SFU Burnaby Campus is located on Burnaby Mountain and hosts thousands of students, faculty members, staff, and visitors, with over 20,000 people traveling up the mountain daily. The Burnaby Terminal, the end point of the Trans Mountain (TM) Pipeline System, and the campus are separated largely by a forest with two access routes, which intersect at one junction²¹. The Burnaby Terminal distribution centre is located just 700 metres from the campus near that junction. The Trans Mountain Expansion Project, which seeks to twin the existing pipeline from Edmonton and expand the number of tanks in the tank farm, among other things, has faced heavy opposition. The City of Burnaby opposes the expansion for a number of public safety and environmental reasons²². According to a 2015 study commissioned by the municipality, the tank farm expansion may increase the annual chance of a tank fire from 1 in a million to a 1 in 2000^{23} .



This risk is intensified by the fact that there is no mutual aid agreement with Burnaby Fire Department in place and that an evacuation plan is not required to be submitted to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) until six months before the pipeline begins operation²⁴. Safety risk assessments conducted by Burnaby Deputy Fire Chief Chris Bowcock, PGL Environmental Consultants on behalf of SFU, and PLC Fire Safety Solutions on behalf of the CER found that there is a potential for a catastrophic event, and the expansion puts the surrounding community, including SFU students, at risk.

Rationale

One of the greatest concerns of the SFU community and wider North Burnaby community, as communicated to MP Terry Beech, is the lack of an evacuation plan in the event of an incident at the tank farm that has the potential to cause spills, chemical leakages, boilover or explosion on Burnaby Mountain. The SFSS is also concerned with the lack of standards for pipeline reinforcement to address potential seismic activity that could result in spills, chemical exposure or large-scale environmental destruction. Any of these events could block earess off the mountain, trapping students and community members. Additionally, the environmental effects and the impacts on Indigenous peoples and their unceded, traditional territories of this project are vast. With a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal of 30% of 2005 levels by 2030²⁵, Canada's transition to a low carbon economy would be derailed by the estimated 400,000 tonnes of GHGs released annually by just the land activities associated with Trans Mountain Expansion Project²⁶.



Many First Nations governments, including the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, have indicated to the CER that the project will threaten their title, rights and interests, severely impacting their economic interests and cultural activities²⁷.

Increase federal support for GAR program refugees' access to Canadian postsecondary education

Background

In 2018, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that there are over 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, with over 25.4 million of these people being refugees ²⁸. Under the 2019-2021 Immigration Levels Plan, Canada has committed to resettling²⁹ more refugees than ever before, following a record-setting intake of 46,700³⁰ refugees in 2016, which has been surpassed each year since by over 1000 refugees. Approximately 3,500 of Syrian refugees have settled in BC, with 50% of this number settling in Surrey³¹.



Canada's record-settling intake of refugees in 2016:

46,700

Education is a critical tool to ensure refugee youth success and integration in Canada. Local immigration partnerships (LIPs) and refugee integration and settlement strategic plans exist in all three cities in which SFU campuses are located: Burnaby, Surrey and Vancouver. However, these strategic plans and reports specifically focus on refugee education from a K-12 and adult education perspective – leaving out post-secondary students.

Rationale

In Canada and BC, there is a gap for over-18 individuals, particularly post-secondary students, with relation to refugee support services. Postsecondary education (PSE) in Canada is critical to refugee economic success across the country. Statistics Canada studies have shown that refugees that receive post-secondary education in Canada within 7 years of landing, particularly those that are female and/or government-assisted refugees (GAR), have significantly better economic outcomes than those that do not. Female refugees experience a substantial rise in average incomes with Canadian PSE within 7 years of landing in Canada. GAR program women who received PSE within first 7 years after arriving in Canada were 75% more likely to be employed in year 8 than those who did not. Additionally, refugees with Canadian PSE earn, on average, \$3,000 to \$8,000 more per year than refugees who did not have PSE after 7 years in Canada.



Refugees with postsecondary education earn

\$3,000-\$8,000

more than refugees without a post-secondary education

Refugee students have different needs than both domestic and international students. Internationallyschooled students in general may have more challenges than domestic students due to difficulties with English language and a new culture, which affect adjustment both academically and socially³². However, these students are more likely to be academically engaged than domestic students. Federal support for GAR-program refugees' access to Canadian PSE promotes the economic success of refugees in Canada, improving both employment and income outcomes, particularly for women.

Allocate a portion of the \$55+ billion available through the National Housing Strategy towards building affordable student rental housing units

Background

In the Metro Vancouver region, post-secondary students often struggle to find housing due to high cost of rent and low vacancy rates for rental housing. Canada's first National Housing Strategy will improve living conditions for many Canadians, including the most vulnerable populations in the country. Although young Canadians are mentioned in the Strategy, students, many of whom spend more than 30% of their limited income on housing, are not specifically mentioned. Furthermore, funding requests for affordable student housing projects to the National Co-Investment Fund are not being accepted by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This exclusion makes it difficult for many Vancouverarea students to access post-secondary education.

The Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area has one of the least affordable housing markets in the country. The average rent for purpose-built rental housing in the region has risen 75% between 2001 and 2017³³. Over this same period, median household incomes have increased less than 12%³⁴. This data also shows that 43% of renter households spend 30% or more on shelter costs. For households with an annual total income of less than \$30,000, this percentage is 86%.





43% of renters spend 30%+ on shelter costs

Rationale

The cost of housing is especially significant for students who leave their family home to continue their education. A previous study³⁵ shows that the annual cost of education for students living away from home is 50% higher than those living with their families. Approximately 37-38% of students at SFU are renters that live outside their families' homes³⁶. It has been estimated that for students who rent a place (on-campus or off-campus) in Vancouver, housing costs are between 30% and 50% of their annual expenses³⁷. Specifically, international students are then more likely to bear higher housing costs, a population at SFU that has increased from less than 900 to more than 4,900 over the past two decades. As discussed previously in this report, student debts have been steadily rising due to increasing educational costs and cost of living for students relative to earnings. While on-campus student rental housing is available for SFU students, it is not enough to meet demand. A 2015 SFU survey found that the demand for student housing oncampus is nearly double the supply, and students prefer options that are not available at SFU³⁸. Lack of affordable supply coupled with increasing cost of living means that students in Canada, particularly in Metro Vancouver, need support.

To modify the National Food Policy to include the subsidization of healthy foods for youth, as proposed by Food Secure Canada

Background

In 2002, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted the following definition for food security: "food security exists when all people at all times have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". The definitions for food security by the United Nations (UN) and the FAO have shifted throughout the decades to incorporate not only the importance of ensuring the production of food to address global food shortages, but to also address the social elements or barriers to food access that are reflected as key public health challenges, such as access to preferred foods³⁹. Across Canada, a growing number of students are facing food insecurity. A 2019 SFSS survey found that SFU students are over three times more likely to be food insecure than the general Canadian population⁴⁰.



Poverty and low-income status are the biggest predictors of food insecurity and can be compounded by other factors such as household status, family status, race, and gender⁴¹. With rising costs of tuition and student debt combined with the high cost of food near campus and housing in urban areas of Canada, students are often trapped in poverty. While community programs exist to improve student food security, there is often a lack of nutritious, culturally-appropriate food available at university campuses, as confirmed by a 2020 SFSS study on student food security.

Rationale

In 2019, as a response to the Canada's National Food Policy release, Food Secure Canada and the Food Secure Canada Youth Caucus published policy recommendations, including a call for the Government of Canada to include "the subsidization of healthy foods for youth, to complement the goal of reducing precarious youth employment and to reduce future healthcare costs associated with eating ultra-processed foods" in the National Food Policy. Research shows that foods available near postsecondary campuses are expensive;



Food options near postsecondary are more likely to be expensive

the cost of a standard meal is almost 50% higher than the monthly food allocation offered by the Canada Student Loans Program⁴². Students face multiple barriers, including limited time for preparing food, lack of food preparation knowledge and skills, and limited facilities to prepare food⁴³. For these reasons, post-secondary students often resort to less nutritious options⁴⁴, putting them at risk of developing chronic diseases as they age, as many food-related habits are formed in early adulthood. Food security, which includes access to preferred, nutritious and culturally-appropriate foods, is essential to individual health and subsequently, public health.

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