

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order - 12:35 PM

2. TERRITORIALACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kwikwələm (Kwikwetlem) and qicəy (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 External and Community Affairs Committee Composition	
VP External and Community Affairs (Chair)	Matthew Provost
Associate VP External and Community Affairs	Nimrit Basra
Ex-Officio	Gabe Liosis
Indigenous Studies Councillor	Estephanie Henriquez
Environment Councillor	Chloe Homenukes
International Studies Councillor	Deanna Short
Political Science Councillor	Helen Sofia Pahou
Communications Councillor	Ashran Bharosha
Student At-Large	Quynh Chi Bui
Student At-Large	
Student At-Large	Vacant
3.2 Constituency Group Representatives on Council (Non-Voting)	
Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA)	
First Nations Students Association (FNSA)	
International Student Advocates	
Out on Campus Collective (OOC)	Vacant
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)	Linda Kanyamuna
Women Centre Collective (WCC)	Nisha Manhas
3.3 Society Staff	
Board Organizer	
Policy, Research, Community Affairs (PRCA) Coordinator	Beatrice Omboga



3.4 Regrets

Associate VP External and Community Affairs	Nimrit Basra
International Studies Councillor	Deanna Short
First Nations Students Association (FNSA)	Keianna James
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)	Linda Kanyamuna
Women Centre Collective (WCC)	Nisha Manhas

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 CONSENT AGENDA

Be it resolved to adopt the consent agenda by unanimous consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.1.1.MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES-ECAC Minutes-MOTION ECA 2021-07-14:01

Be it resolved to receive and file the following minutes:

• ECAC 2021-04-19

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION ECA 2021-07-27:02

Matthew/Estephanie

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED

Amend motion 6.1

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 External & Community Affairs Committee Vice Chair Appointment-MOTION ECA 2021-07-27:03

SUBMITTED BY: VP External and Community Affairs (*Chair*) "Matthew Provost" Matthew/Estaphanie

Whereas the 2021-2022 External & Community Affairs committee will be meeting for the duration of the year,

Be it resolved to appoint Chloe Homenukes as Vice chair for the 2021-2022 External & Community Affairs committee to help support the chair in times of absence or support

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED

- Vice-Chair will help with general tasks of the Chair, chair meetings for this committee when the Chair is not present.
- Replace X with Chloe Homenukes.
- Chloe Homenukes appointed as Vice Chair.



7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction of the committee members

- Estephanie Want to help prioritize issues of concern to students, gaining lobbying experience, working collectively with the group.
- Chloe Working on community issues, pipeline issue, gondola project.
- Ashran Want to help marginalized folks, international students.
- Helen Learn about lobbying, connect with community and help the student body.
- Fizza Want to work on helping international students, help FIC get access to UPass.
- Quynh Chi Sant to advocate for international students with health care and MSP insurance.

7.2 Housekeeping & Expectations of the 2021-2022 ECA committee

- ECA committee works towards driving campaign and advocacy for students.
- Advocating for marginalized communities, black students, indigenous students, international students.
- Committee members will be expected to be respectful with each other and anyone who participates in the committee and problematic language will not be tolerated.

7.3 External & Community Affairs Development Sessions

- Matthew worked with Ella and Ayesha to have internal development sessions that will be helpful for lobbying and campaigning.
- Will have a regular meeting in the first portion of ECA meetings and a development session at the end. Purpose is to help members learn basics of campaigning, how to talk with politicians, public speaking, etc....
- People who have attended all the development sessions will have priority to Lobby Days
 or when asked to go to an event.

7.4 Strategic Planning Session for 2021-2022 External & Community Affairs Committee ATTACHMENTS: VP External Strategic Plan

- Strategic planning outlines what the committee wants to focus for the year.
- Will have a working session in the meeting to work on it where everyone can contribute.
- Important topics will include student affordability and housing, food security, mental health.

7.5 Federal Advocacy Report 2021 ATTACHMENTS: Federal Advocacy Report 2021

- Document outlines campaigns from last year and various lobbying efforts.
- Some important campaigns were: eliminating interest on federal portion of student loans, post-pandemic recovery, opposing trans mountain expansion project, refugees support, student affordable housing and so on.
- Should be a review for members and will build on it to add more in the upcoming year



7.6 Provincial Lobbying Report 2021 ATTACHMENTS: Provincial Lobbying Report 2021

- Similar to federal advocacy report but campaigns for the provincial government.
- Funding for sexual violence support, grants for post-secondary institutions, MSP, tuition cap, ect...
- Will need to figure out what happened since these recommendations took place and look for things to add based on what happened so far.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 Next External & Community Affairs meeting will be August 17th from 12:30pm-2pm.

9. ATTACHMENTS

- 9.1 Federal Advocacy Report 2021
- 9.2 Provincial Lobbying Report 2021
- 9.3 VP External Strategic Plan

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1 MOTION ECA 2021-07-27:04

Chloe/Fizza

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 1:42 PM

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

simon fraser student society



SFSS
Recommendations
to the Federal
Government
2020-21

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 "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.

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 2000°. 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

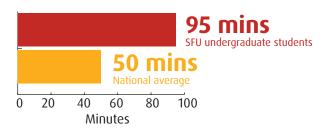
Background

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' Council's 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.

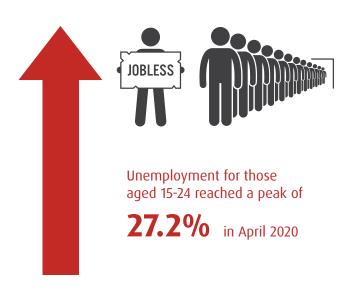


35.7% of undergraduates' current financial position prevented them from enrolling in summer semester classes

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.

While we recognize domestic students can now

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.

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 2000²³.



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 post-secondary 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. Post-secondary 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. Internationally-schooled 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.



SFU undergraduate students:

3x more likely to be food insecure

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 post-secondary 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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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.

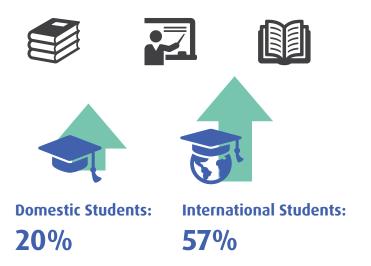
The following report provides the SFSS' recommendations to the Province on issues that are most important to our members. For more information, please contact Samad Raza, VP External Relations, at vpexternal@sfss.ca.

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:



Rationale

According to Statistics Canada, in 2016° 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 \$13,600¹°, 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 post-secondary 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 quard.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 very small monthly increase from the existing quard. 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%



Domestic Students: limit of 2% increase

international Students:



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

2.9Xmore 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.



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 non-person 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, community-based 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 disability, making the inclusion of these 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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Vice-President External & Community Affairs Strategic Plan 2021-2022

Matthew Provost

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VP External & Community Affairs Projects:

Reconciliation Efforts:

Establish, Build & Solidify relationships with Host Nations:

Summary:

- Outreach to xwməθkwəyəm, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, and Selĭlwitulh to introduce the Executive committee as well as Council and the work that is going and relevant in regards to reconciliation within the society. This will be a start in continuing reconciliation efforts and establishing respectful relationships with the Nations in which we reside.

Timeline:

- Throughout the duration of the year

Next Steps:

- In my first week I have sent introductory emails to Host Nations, from here I will follow up and in any relevant initiative or project will be consulting with Nations or relevant community members throughout the year.

Points of Contact:

- xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) Chief & Council
- Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) Chief & Council
- Selíľwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Chief & Council

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Liaison with external groups & community organizations

Support Campaigns and Initiatives to Amplify Indigenous Issues:

Summary:

 Throughout the year there will be campaigns that are relevant and there will be opportunities to support and endorse at these moments. This can include but not limited to: Indigenous People(s) Day, Orange Shirt Day, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Memorial Days of Recognition etc.

Timeline:

Duration of the year

Next Steps:

-

 Create digital campaigns and outreach to relevant community members to support work that is ongoing, compile and share relevant information, work with Executive Committee, Council, and community members

Points of Contact:

- Host Nations, Elders
- First Nations Students Association
- Indigenous Student Centre
- Indigenous Studies Student Union
- Indigenous Studies Department
- Relevant Community Members

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Facilitate Collective Action, Liaise with Community members

Students Against TMX:

Summary:

Continue the Students Against TMX Campaign that has been ongoing since last year.
 Student Unions Across Canada have signed on a collective letter address to Justin Trudeau to halt the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion.

Timeline:

- Duration of the year

Next Steps:

- Share, and support ongoing collective action, lobby provincial and federal government to push the campaign and work with supporting student groups to stop the pipeline
- Push campaign through social media outlets and build on the work that has already occurred

Points of Contact:

- VP Equity & Sustainability Marie Haddad
- Dogwood SFU
- Student unions who have signed on and organizations in solidarity

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Liaison with and lobby the government & with other relevant bodies on issues that affect undergrads
- Facilitate Collective Action
- Coordinate external & community based advocacy

Increase Student Affordability:

Fight for Student Housing Subsidy and Rent Cap:

Summary:

 Initiate and coordinate campaign to support students with affordable housing, especially in light of COVID-19 we have seen the precarity in which students are impacted

Timeline:

- Duration of the year

Next Steps:

- Initiate research, and work with relevant external groups to address the housing crisis that impacts students and community members

Points of Contact:

- Task Force to End Homelessness
- Organizations that can support student subsidies

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Liaison with and lobby the government & with other relevant bodies on issues that affect undergrads

Advocate for Additional Grants and Public Funding for BIPOC Students:

Summary:

- Researching and looking into resources for BIPOC students to receive funding in regards to education and living.

Timeline:

- Throughout the year

Next Steps:

- Research and collaborate with VP University and Academic Affairs Serena Bains and VP Equity and Sustainability Marie Haddad.
- Contact Minister of Advanced Education

Points of Contact:

- Relevant Organizations and Stakeholders
- Minister of Advanced Education

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Liaison with and lobby the government & with other relevant bodies on issues that affect

- undergrads
- Facilitate Collective Action
- Coordinate external & community based advocacy

Fight for Increased Public Funding from Provincial Government for Universities:

Summary:

Due to cuts to public funding to post-secondary education over the past +30 years we
have seen a huge increase in tuition fees which directly impact our membership, as well
as accessibility to access post-secondary education. The need for increased funding
from the provincial and federal government is essential to ensuring post-secondary is
accessible as well as ensuring students can graduate with less debt.

Timeline:

- Duration of the year

Next Steps:

- Meet with government officials to lobby and discuss the impacts
- Create and endorse ongoing campaigns

Points of Contact:

- Anne Kang Minister of Advanced Education

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Liaison with and lobby the government & with other relevant bodies on issues that affect undergrads
- Facilitate Collective Action
- Coordinate external & community based advocacy

Create relationships with external organizations for students supports:

Summary:

- For my role I will be establishing and developing relationships with external groups and organizations off campus regarding key factors that impact students with are:
 - Food Insecurity
 - Affordable Housing
 - Mental Wellness
- Continue the work of researching and doing outreach to organizations that are already established so that members can access these resources in their areas of the lower mainland.

Timeline:

- Summer and Fall Semester

Next Steps:

- Continue research and outreach to relevant organizations
- Make points of contact and add to website as a compiled link

Points of Contact:

Relevant organizations

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Coordinate external & community based advocacy
- Liaise with Community members

Advocate for additional UPass Exemptions:

Summary:

 Currently UPass has seen additional exemptions in the past year, but the need to add equity exemptions should be prioritized.

Timeline:

- Duration of the year

Next Steps:

- Connect with other student unions on UPass Student Caucus, and run for UPass
 Advocacy committee to represent SFSS with stakeholders within Translink as well as
 provincial government.
- Survey the past year of UPass service with our membership, and use information to drive campaigns to have more equity based exemptions for membership
- Continue to be vocal about students needs at relevant meetings

Points of Contact:

- UPass Student Caucus
- Relevant Student Unions
- Graduate Studies Student Union

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Liaison with and lobby the government & with other relevant bodies on issues that affect undergrads
- Facilitate Collective Action
- Coordinate external & community based advocacy

COVID-19 Relief:

Return to campus safety initiatives:

Summary:

COVID-19 Return to campus information has been fluctuating the last year, and from what we know we may be returning to campus in the Fall 2021 semester. We need to ensure that students are safe as well as prepared to make that transition. There will need to be adequate support in place not only from the university but also the provincial government to ensure domestic but most importantly International students and BIPOC students have all necessary support so this does not impact their academic journey.

Timeline:

- Summer semester

Next Steps:

- Find all relevant resources around SFU's back to campus safety plan, and information regarding students and international students resources from BC's government related websites
- Contact Minister of Advanced Education

Points of Contact:

- Anne Kang
- BC Provincial Government
- VP University and Academic Affairs Serena Bains
- Relevant SFU Stakeholders

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Liaison with and lobby the government & with other relevant bodies on issues that affect undergrads
- Coordinate external & community based advocacy

Emergency Response Working Group:

Summary:

- The ERWG was established to support students throughout COVID-19. There were various projects that were brought through this working group like food hub as well as other campaigns addressed. I want to continue looking at what can be done for students for COVID-19 support whether that means on campus testing sites, or other emergency related initiatives to further continue to address the needs for our membership.

Timeline:

- Duration of the year

Next Steps:

- Look back on next year's initiatives and continue the ongoing work.

Points of Contact:

- VP University and Academic Affairs Serena Bains

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Coordinate external & community based advocacy
- Liaise with Community members

Issues Policy Recommendations:

International Students:

Summary:

- In order to support International students properly we need to ensure the SFSS has a stance on supporting International in all capacities. The intention of this is to draft and issue policies and consult with relevant groups on campus so they have the support necessary from the society on issues that directly affect them.

Timeline:

- Summer Term

Next Steps:

I will be facilitating initial conversations with relevant student groups to consult on the direct needs and direct of the issues policy. I will be researching and looking into other issue policies from other student unions regarding international students, and from there propose a draft and until it meets the needs and folks' consent I will bring it to council to approve, pass, and implement.

Points of Contact:

- Contact International Studies Student Union
- Contant Folks at GSS
- Migrant Students United

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- recommendations on the establishment of policy on issues relations to external and community affairs

Standing Order for Sub-Committee for International Students:

Summary:

Another component to the issue policy for international students, I want to help establish
a sub committee on equity & sustainability for International students. This will help
provide more support and direction for advocacy efforts, insight, and campaigns to be
supportive moving forward. The establishment of this committee will encompass the
specifics to international student experience.

Timeline:

Summer

Next Steps:

- Facilitating initial conversations with relevant student groups to consult on the direct needs and direction of the standing order for the sub-committee. Work with groups on the standing order as well as work with the chair of Equity and Sustainability Committee.

Points of Contact:

- Contact International Studies Student Union
- Contant Folks at GSS
- Migrant Students United
- VP Equity & Sustainability Marie Haddad

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- recommendations on the establishment of policy on issues relations to external and community affairs

External & Community Affairs Committee:

International Student Advocacy Office:

Summary:

- Last year's board of directors endorsed and supported the International Student Advocacy Office and act as founding members. This is in collaboration with Migrant Student Worker, and other organizations in BC. This office allows for collective advocacy on the behalf of International students and support.

Timeline:

- Duration of the year

Next Steps:

- Continue attending Migrant Students United Meetings
- Continue working off of ongoing projects from last year that have been recommended by outgoing VP External Samad Raza
- Carry out lobby efforts that have been outlined

Points of Contact:

- Migrant Students United

Relation to Strategic Plan:

- Coordinate external & community based advocacy
- Liaise with Community members

Black, Indigenous and People of Colour Committee:

Continuing Projects:

- SFSS Issues Policies
- SFU Health & Counselling
- SFU Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Specialist
- Athletics Name Consultation
- Career Development Support for Black Student Graduates
- Funding for resources for BIPOC at SFU