

This report is intended to meet the requirements as contained in the SFSS Bylaws for a final report on any election or referendum held by the SFSS.

Elections and Referenda Report

SFSS Executive Election – 2022

Commissioners:

Alan Wong

Nadia Ahmed

Shayan Ahmed Bombal

Tanishvir Singh

Chief Commissioner:

Farhan Shahriar

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TIMELINE

<i>Electoral Period</i>	Start Date	End Date
<i>Notice of Election Period</i>	January 10, 2022	January 16, 2022
<i>Nomination Period</i>	January 17, 2022	January 30, 2022
<i>Campaign Period</i>	January 31, 2022	February 14, 2022
<i>Voting Period</i>	February 15, 2022	February 17, 2022
<i>Post-Election Period</i>	February 18, 2022	March 11, 2022

CANDIDATES

PRESIDENT

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(Yes' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(No' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Helen Sofia Pabou</i>	598	N/A	X
<i>Sophonie Priebe</i>	458	N/A	
<i>Dilraj Nijjar</i>	301	N/A	
<i>Shariq Absan</i>	280	N/A	
<i>Liam Feng</i>	256	N/A	
<i>Vincent Huang</i>	221	N/A	

VICE-PRESIDENT INTERNAL AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(Yes' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(No' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Judit Nagy</i>	1,133	N/A	X
<i>Chloe Homenuke</i>	588	N/A	
<i>Samiya Rashmi</i>	394	N/A	

VICE-PRESIDENT FINANCE AND SERVICES

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(Yes' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(No' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Abisbek (Abhi) Parmar</i>	940	N/A	X
<i>Soban Jayprakash</i> <i>Baviskaar</i>	599	N/A	
<i>Saima Chowdury</i>	530	N/A	

VICE-PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(Yes' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(No' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Nicole (Nikki) Kirgin</i>	1,178	N/A	X

<i>Simran Sarai</i>	655	N/A	
<i>Dhruvit Maniya</i>	370	N/A	

VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(Yes' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(No' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Eshana Baran</i>	1,133	966	X

VICE-PRESIDENT EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(Yes' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(No' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Rea Chatterjee</i>	1,122	926	X

VICE-PRESIDENT EVENTS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(Yes' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(No' votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Vaibhav Arora</i>	1,168	N/A	X
<i>Janaye Majer</i>	804	N/A	

REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

1. First Nations, Métis, AND INUIT STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Question	Do you support funding the SFU First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Association at a cost of \$1.50 per full time student per semester and \$0.75 per part-time student per semester for the purposes of community building, cultural awareness and support services? This will increase the Student Activity Fee by \$0.75 per full time student per semester and \$0.38 per part time student per semester? two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast.
Votes in Favour	1,352
Votes Against	906
Threshold for Passing	Majority of the votes cast (more than 50%)
Results <i>Pass/Fail</i>	PASSED

2. (LEVIES FOR BLACK AND DISABLED/NEURODIVERGENT STUDENT SUPPORT FUNDS REFERENDUM)

Question	Do you support establishing two funds, the SOCA Black Student Support Fund and the DNA Disabled and Neurodivergent Student Support Fund, for the two equity-seeking constituency groups, Disability & Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA) and Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA), at a cost per semester of \$1.00 per full-time undergraduate student per fund and \$0.50 per part-time undergraduate student per fund, for the purposes of community building, cultural awareness and support services? This will increase the Student Activity Fee by \$2.00 per full-time undergraduate student per semester and \$1.00 per part-time undergraduate student per semester (Please vote "yes", "no", or leave blank).
Votes in Favour	1,117
Votes Against	1,082
Threshold for Passing	Majority of the votes cast (more than 50%)
Results <i>Pass/Fail</i>	PASS

3. SFSS HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN FEE INCREASE REFERENDUM

Question	Do you agree to increase the Health and Dental Plan by \$30 for September 2022-August 2023? a) Basic plan from \$197.52 to \$227.52 b) Enhanced Plan from \$254.36 to \$284.36 (Please vote "yes", "no", or leave blank).
Votes in Favour	689
Votes Against	1,518
Threshold for Passing	Majority of the votes cast (more than 50%)

Results <i>Pass/Fail</i>	FAIL - More than 50% of the vote cast were against
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4. HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN FEE ADJUSTMENT POWER RENEWAL REFERENDUM

Question	Do you agree to give the SFSS Council the power to adjust the SFSS Health and Dental Plan fee by +/- 5% under Spring 2025? (Please vote "yes", "no", or leave blank).
Votes in Favour	803
Votes Against	1,309
Threshold for Passing	Majority of the votes cast (more than 50%)
Results <i>Pass/Fail</i>	FAIL - More than 50% of the vote cast were against

5. FUTURE STUDENT SOCIETY PROJECTS

Question	<p>Future Student Society Projects Referendum Question: With the Build SFU Project completed (SUB and SFU Stadium are done and open), do you think the SFSS should research a Surrey Students Union Building project, a subsidised student housing project, both, or none?</p> <p>Select your preference</p> <p>Surrey SUB Subsidized Student Housing Both None</p>
Votes in Favour	<p>Surrey SUB: 366 Subsidized Student Housing: 724 Both: 789 None: 515</p>
Threshold for Passing	Non-Binding plebiscite

COMPLAINTS

COMPLAINT 1 – Use of SFU Facilities without prior permission

Electoral Regulation	CP-3
Description	The candidates of the “SFU Progressives” were found to be tabling and playing loud music at the SFU Surrey Rotunda without the approval of both the IEC and Meeting, Events, And Conference Services. We received complaints from MECS regarding this matter.
Material Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Screenshots and video evidence ● Email from MECS
Finding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Founded <input type="checkbox"/> Not founded
Infraction Stage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stage 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Stage 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Stage 3
Penalty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Censure (written statement to candidate in question) <input type="checkbox"/> Fine (reduction of campaign expense reimbursement allocation by half) <input type="checkbox"/> Disqualification
Rationale	After receiving a complaint regarding campaigning during the voting period, the IEC sent a warning to all the candidates involved, stating that this is not an approved activity and a warning was best suited since there was no prior communication about this rule.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1 – Conflict Of Interest

Issue	<p>Current and past SFSS board members were influencing the election in various manners including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personally emailing the IEC Staff using society resources ● Coaching and giving insights on campaigning ● Posting misinformation about rival candidates ● Acting in an unprofessional manner in which fellow “slate” members gained an advantage
Recommendation	<p>We recommend that all current and past board members, including council, and the executive board refrain from participating in the election in any manner public or private. This is due to the fact that it challenges our autonomy as Independent Commissioners, since there were malicious attempts to influence our decisions due to the fact they are in a position of power. Furthermore, it is unfair and unjust to other candidates since they may not have such expertise due to not running before in any election cycle.</p>

FINAL THOUGHTS

The continued online environment has posted some persistent challenges to the work of the IEC. Being able to apply my previous elections experience as a Chief Commissioner has been paramount to conducting a smooth and successful election despite all the challenges. Some of the challenges we faced as a team included an increase in tumultuous banter among candidates which really posed some difficulties in finding the right balance of neutrality. There was also another challenge posed to the IEC regarding finding actionable evidence when complaints were filed to ensure the elections process was free and fair. The recommendation from the IEC would be to foster a closer sense of connection with the candidates, staff, and the general student society population as a whole.

I wish the upcoming commissioners the best and hope that these points were useful.

Farhan Shahriar

IEC Chief Commissioner

March 31st 2022