

2021-2022



simon fraser
student society

VP EXTERNAL & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS' EXIT REPORT

Matthew Provost
Simon Fraser Student Society



Overview

The External & Community Affairs Portfolio covers mainly external relations outside of the University, Lobbying the municipal, provincial, and federal government as well as campaigns and advocates on behalf of the student on issues that directly impact our membership which is undergraduate students. The External role has worked with SFU administration to partner on specific campaigns such as the Gondola, but we have also worked on lobbying the government to oppose projects such as the Trans Mountain Pipeline and supporting International students throughout the pandemic.

I have worked closely with the Executive committee and Councillors as well as the External and Community Affairs community on varying campaigns such the Federal Elections Campaign and advancing Reconciliation efforts. There are many areas of collaboration in regards to events and services and equity.

This role takes on major initiatives such as acting urgently amidst a pandemic and supporting communities in times of crises. The role also builds and establishes working relations with organizations and other student societies to build coalitions and work on broader campaigns for undergraduates across not only British Columbia but Turtle Island.




Executive Summary

Oki/ Niiksokowaiks (Hello Friends),

Niitaniko Matthew Provost, Nomohotootoo Piikani, Kainai, Siksika Blackfoot Territory Treaty 7 Southern Alberta. Kiitsiksimatsitsi xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikwəλ'əm (Kwikwetlem) and q̓ícəy̓(Katzie) Nations. Hello! My name is Matthew Provost. I am an uninvited guest on Coast Salish Territories and I come from Blackfoot territory and this year I had the privilege of being on the SFSS 2021-22 Council of the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) as the Vice President External and Community Affairs. This year I was the Chair for the External and Community Affairs Committee. I sat on various committees and supported the work of other Council members through campaigns, advocacy efforts and working groups.


Throughout the year I have worked on varied projects, advocated and lobbied for students' support, and built relationships with external stakeholders within SFU but also MLA's, Burnaby City Councillors, and Ministers. I have strived to ensure this position came from an equitable approach that centered on Reconciliation and community care.

This will be my second year serving on the Executive Committee, and it has definitely been a learning experience. I am glad to have been able to build off of other projects in my first year and continue new projects especially with the opening of the Student Union Building. Amidst being in a pandemic I have done my best to prioritize student well being in advocacy efforts for centering support and resources to prioritize campus safety in regards to COVID-19.



Looking back there has been so much to reflect on, I am thankful to have been a part of many historical moments such as signing our Collective Agreement with our Unionized Staff and also being able to support monetary contributions to our communities in times of need especially Indigenous community members impacted by the realities of climate change. I preface by saying that even though this role has been difficult at times, it definitely has given me a lot to be proud of and be thankful for.

Thank you everyone who has contributed to the work and successes of this year. I want to note that looking back on last year's exit report I wanted to leave this place better than we found it. Not that long ago I can say that I wasn't very fond of the SFSS, with the last few board members and now Council members I can say that there are solid people who believe in equity, anti-oppression, anti-racism who will continue to support Student Power. In this role we centre those who do not fit these spaces. I can say from experience that as an Indigenous person I did not see myself fitting in these spaces until we created a space that was safe and welcoming because that's the direction we want this society to be in. There has been so much labour as well as emotional labour that has been poured into these spaces to be where they are today. I also admit there have been difficult moments as well, I want to acknowledge that and not overlook the fact that we still have so much more work to do. I encourage everyone Execs, Councillors, Community members you have a responsibility to ensure that these spaces are equitable and to recognize that these decision making spaces have not been designed for many people especially those in our marginalized communities. We need to make intentional change with empathy and the ability to grow, we need to find solidarity, and have



an open mind and open heart to this work. As leaders in our communities wherever we may come from we have power and privilege and never take advantage of that because we have the opportunity to create real change that can empower, support, and establish something really amazing here.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here for two years, it has been a hell of a ride.

Kiitsiksimatsitsi,

Matthew Provost





Projects and Initiatives

Summer

Appointment of Associate Vice-President External & Community Affairs:

On May 25th at the Executive Committee ratified the nomination brought forth from myself to appoint Nimrit Basra as the inaugural Associate Vice President External and Community Affairs for 2021-2022.

This role is intended to be support for the VP External in various capacities, and that support will be provided by the AVP External in meetings, research, committee support etc.

- Since this we have completed the onboarding process, and outlined the role
- Released a stated on the SFSS website which you can read [here](#) discussing the appointment

Indigenous Solidarity and Community Support:

On May 27th 2021 we heard the Simon Fraser Student Society heard the news of the unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School. I proposed to the Executive that we show solidarity with our Indigenous community to support through online resources during this time.

This was one of the first campaigns during the summer semester that I led and organized with support from the Executive. This has been an ongoing initiative That was throughout the summer. There have been numerous initiatives that have come from the SFSS that have been intertwined in this work to continue our reconciliation efforts.

We knew it was essential to respond in a timely manner to what was happening and provide culturally relevant resources to Indigenous community members within the SFSS. We also organized a small vigil in front of the Student Union Building and live streamed it so students could participate remotely due to COVID-19 protocols at the time. We ran a digital campaign and continued to share resources from SFU Community members such as Indigenous Student Centre. We also called for action items for SFU to lower the flags to half mass in respect for the community members impacted.

We called on the university to ensure that urgency was taken with regards to the news, as well as commitments to be better allies with Indigenous communities.





Indigenous Day Digital Campaign:

For National Indigenous People(s) Day which is June 21 also known as summer solstice, we ran a digital campaign online to support and educate community members about the significance of this day.

As the SFSS we have done our best to continuously support Indigenous community members in whatever capacity we can. We wanted to recognize community members and celebrate Indigenous excellence. We outlined how we wanted to support this year while also acknowledging June as Indigenous History Month. We were able to compile resources, and curate Indigenous creators, artists, and authors that were circulated on our social media.


[Read Statement Here: RE: SFSS Indigenous Day Statement](#)



Indian Residential School Survivors and Commitments to Reconciliation:

As the summer progressed the ongoing news of unmarked graves and support for Indigenous communities was essential. I was able to propose areas of commitments that the SFSS council could take in regards to furthering our work in reconciliation.

The ongoing implications of the IRS are being witnessed present day, and the harms are still ongoing and this is currently re-traumatizing our Indigenous




community members. The numerous unmarked graves of Indigenous children will continue to rise and we need to hold accountability to the government of so-called Canada. During these times we also need to ensure that we properly and adequately support Indigenous community members and survivors of the IRS schools and folks who suffer from the intergenerational trauma that stems from the imposition of colonial violence.

As a student society that is progressive and centers advocacy, we need to take proactive action to amplify the voices of Indigenous community members and support in ways that can help address the harms that have occurred. It is our collective responsibility to support and not repeat history.

The Council then passed the motion to also contribute \$6000.00 to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society to support their work.

Here are the commitments I recommended to Council:

1. Task the 2021-2022 Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour Committee as well as include Indigenous community members in drafting internal SFSS Calls to Action in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
 - The BIPOC Committee has already worked with the TRC document and has done extensive work with reconciliation efforts within the Year
2. SFSS Council donates \$6000.00 to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society
3. SFSS continues to advocate and push back on acts of genocide and colonialism that has impacted Indigenous People(s)
4. Support and amplify Calls to Action from Indigenous communities in all capacities, including letters of supports, sharing resources, donations, and taking individual action to educate ourselves on these ongoing issues
5. Condemn the so-called Canadian government for:
 - a. denying acts of genocide against Indigenous People(s)
 - b. fighting cases that are brought against the government by IRS Survivors

- 
6. Stand in solidarity with Indigenous People(s) and continue to advocate for
 7. justice and recognition

Motion I presented to Council on June 25th, 2021:

Indian Residential School Survivors and Commitments to Reconciliation:

Whereas on May 27th, 2021 Tk'emlups te Secwepemc leadership released an official statement regarding the findings of 215 unmarked graves on the grounds of Kamloops Indian Residential School.,

Whereas on June 24, 2021 Cowessess First Nation Chief Cadmus Delorme announced in a press conference that 751 unmarked graves were found on the grounds at the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan,

Whereas it is roughly estimated that there are currently over 1300 unmarked graves across so-called Canada, and it is estimated that the number will continue to grow in the coming months and years,


Whereas the recent news of these unmarked graves of Indigenous children who attended Indian Residential Schools are currently impacting our Indigenous communities across Turtle Island mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually,

Whereas the Simon Fraser Student Society is committed to pushing back against colonial practices that still impact Indigenous students in post-secondary institutions and is committed to supporting Indigenous students to learn in a safe and supportive environment within SFU,

Be it resolved that the 2021-2022 SFSS Council continue to stand in solidarity with Indigenous students and communities during these times of grief,

Be it further resolved that the SFSS Council task the 2021-2022 the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour Committee as well as include Indigenous community members in drafting internal SFSS Calls to Action in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to further mandate and support reconciliation efforts to address the systemic issues that are embedded in all colonial institutions,

Be it resolved that Council continue to support and amplify Calls to Action from Indigenous communities in all capacities, including letters of support, sharing resources, donations, and taking individual action to educate ourselves on these ongoing issues,



Be it further resolved that the SFSS Council donates \$6000.00 to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society from the appropriate line item to be determined from VP Finance and Services to further support those who have been negatively impacted by the Indian residential school system that was imposed by the so-called canadian government,

Be it further resolved that the SFSS continues to advocate and push back on acts of genocide and colonialism that has impacted Indigenous People(s) since contact, this includes but not limited to: the condemnation of the so-called canadian government denying acts of genocide against Indigenous People(s) of Turtle Island; calling on the so-called canadian governments to stop fighting cases that are brought against the government by Indian Residential School survivors; amplifying Indigenous students and organizers calls in our lobbying and advocacy efforts and other such actions

#CancelCanadaDay Campaign In continuing our work with upholding our commitment to reconciliation effort and standing in solidarity with Indigenous communities we supported #CancelCanadaDay. There was a motion proposed for the SFSS to support #CancelCanadaDay as well as to consider and reflect our participation with this specific "holiday" that actively perpetuates harm and celebrates the ongoing colonialism and genocide against Indigenous People(s).

I supported this campaign to help research and bring context for the motion, as well as voice the importance of taking a stance to support and amplify Indigenous voices. The SFSS Executive voiced support for this since this is also reflected in our Issues Policies.

To note, there will be ongoing work to this campaign but for context the work that I contributed was specifically to the briefing note as well as the motion at hand that was brought forward to the council. This motion also directly correlated with the Indian Residential School Survivors Society since this was also brought forth. As mentioned earlier the society took the stance to urge members to educate themselves on the actual history of this colonial state and how this is still impacting Indigenous communities present day. It is essential that we do our best to advocate and work towards upholding Indigenous led initiatives to properly support reconciliation efforts.



[RE: Read Statement Here](#)

In-Person Event Guidelines:

Summary:

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well transitioning back for the Fall semester, we have been working internally to establish In-Person Event guidelines for Departmental Student Unions (DSU's), Clubs, and Constituency groups.

This has been an ongoing working group between various executives and staff to create recommendations on how we will be following Provincial Health Guidelines for events that will be happening. The SFSS has received requests as well as information on how it will be moving forward for allowing in person events since in the previous board term they were suspended due to the pandemic and safety of all community members. We wanted to ensure that we were prioritizing student safety as well as we provided support for DSU's, clubs and groups to have events for the Fall Semester.

My role in this was to provide feedback and suggestions to how we could improve as well as implement guidelines for safe return of events. We were able to create guidelines that DSU's Clubs, and Constituency groups would follow to ensure we are prioritizing safety of their members. I supported this initiative so that we would be able to transition back to in person programming.

- We created a checklist for events that would be happening in person and formalized processes
- We were able to allocate supplies such as sanitizer, and masks if needed
- Implementation of contact tracing if in person events occur



UAC Student Association Caucus (UAC-SAC) Appointment:

Summary:

For the 2021-2022 I have been appointed through an election to be a representative for the Simon Fraser Student Society as the Representative of this Caucus. My predecessor was the Chair for this last year. UAC-SAC is mandated to advocate on issues related to the U-Pass BC Program on behalf of all students in the Metro-Vancouver area.

Here are some key point directly from the terms of reference:

- Joint re-negotiation of U-Pass BC agreements
- Providing feedback on issues and concerns related to the U-Pass BC program and the UAC
- Coordinating research on public transit and the U-Pass BC program
- Providing coordinated communications to student association governing bodies, students, and the media in regards to the U-Pass BC program
- Coordinated stakeholder relations (i.e. government, Translink, etc.) in regards to the U-Pass BC program

For the duration of the year I will be the representative on behalf of the society to advocate on U-Pass related issues that are brought forth by our membership and continue this work with updates as well as briefs on my meetings when they

are called. I will also collaboratively work on other projects with other societies in regards to campaigns.



Student Union Building Soft Opening:

Summary:

On August 23rd, we had the Soft Opening for the Student Union Building which is led by Jess Dela Cruz. I was in support of this at various capacities, this was a huge accomplishment for our Council to be the ones to have the opportunity to open the building and be the first Executive's to welcome community members in the building.

There were a lot of logistics to consider with the soft opening such as COVID-19 protocol, and ensuring we were being inclusive to folks invited. We had a week of scheduled small opening events every day.

In regards to what I was involved in, I was there everyday to welcome folks in and give a small talk into the history of the Student Union Building as a former Constituency group member. Also to acknowledge the amount of work that has been done in regards to the SUB Space Campaign. Prior to being on the SFSS executive committee I was on the First Nation Student Association board as a representative, and active member of the Rotunda community. Last year on the board of 2020-21 we made it a priority to support student groups on campus that supported marginalized groups since before this there was a reluctance to give groups space at the time. These groups included Simon Fraser Public Interest Resource Group, Student of African and Caribbean Ancestry, and CJSF Radio Station. This accomplishment will shape the ways in which the SFSS supports communities and groups that support students in the future. I also want to acknowledge that on the first day of the opening we invited Indigenous community members first to open our building in a good way, we had elders present in the morning as well as Indigenous singers from community, the FNSEA, and Indigenous Student Centre present. We wanted to correct the ways in which the SFSS lacked on including Indigenous community members and set precedence for welcoming our Indigenous communities.

Elder Shane Pointe gave an opening and gave a blessing to the ballroom space. This was a huge honour to be able to have this done, as well as prioritize and respect Indigenous protocol on the territories of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), səl'ilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), kwikwəł'əm (Kwikwetlem), and Katzie Nations.

For the duration of the week I helped with the set up and take down of the events as well as supported with tours and pictures for each group that came. In regards to the planning I was able to invite key stakeholders and community members for that week which included:

- Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley
- MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed Katrina Chen
- Elder Margaret from səl'ilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh)
- Elder Shane Pointe from xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam)





Nominating Committee Appointments for Summer

Summary:

For the second year I was appointed on the Nominating Committee, as well as appointed as Vice-Chair. The mandate of this committee is to be non-partisan in the recommendations from student committee applications for our SFSS committees. From here we organized and made our recommendations and worked with committee chairs. We reviewed applications and sent relevant information to chairs. We continue to have committee appointments to fill vacant seats as this sometimes occurs throughout the year.

We were able to fill seats for the summer semester for at-large positions, we found that online applications as well as online engagement is difficult so we will be doing another online push for applications as well as reminders at council meetings and hopefully in person.


Recommendations:

- Communicate with all committee chairs and consolidate all questions that have been submitted for respective committee
- Make shared drive folder for all committees and applicants
- Check in with committee chairs to fill vacancies

Surrey Director Search Committee:

For the duration of the Summer I was on the Surrey Director Search Committee, prior to being the incumbent VP External I was appointed on this committee. There was a lot of work that occurred over the summer and I was able to provide feedback and direction to who we would be looking at as a candidate to fill this position. The committee was composed of various SFU community members from various roles around the university.

There were several meetings to discuss the job description, roles and responsibilities, as well as candidate ideals in relation to the Surrey Campus



Community. I am thankful to be considered to have input on these positions and be able to help support. My capacity was limited later on in the summer semester but I did my best to navigate on which meetings to attend as well as candidate town halls. This committee met very frequently and sometimes I could not make meetings but was up to date on the documents and relevant information that was sent my way. I also think it's important to note that students should always be included in these processes due to hirings and these positions are intended to support students in respect to these campuses. It's important to hear student input since at the end of the day these positions are here for us and our academic experience so we can all succeed. Especially with students who have experiences at any campus their voices need to be included since they understand their own needs in regards to services and resources in these spaces.

Recommendations:


- Advocate for more student positions in search committee spaces
- Ensure that more BIPOC folks have space as well within students, faculty, and staff

Federal Elections Campaign:

This Summer there was a snap election called in regards to the Federal Elections, as per my role as VP External and Community Affairs it is my responsibility to ensure that myself as well as the External and community Affairs committee is up to date with these events since it is directly related to student engagement.

We prepared in advance and were keeping up to date with any news of the elections being called. We did not have an exact day but we needed to ensure that we had various information in place as well as a head start on planning information for students.

Campaign logistics:

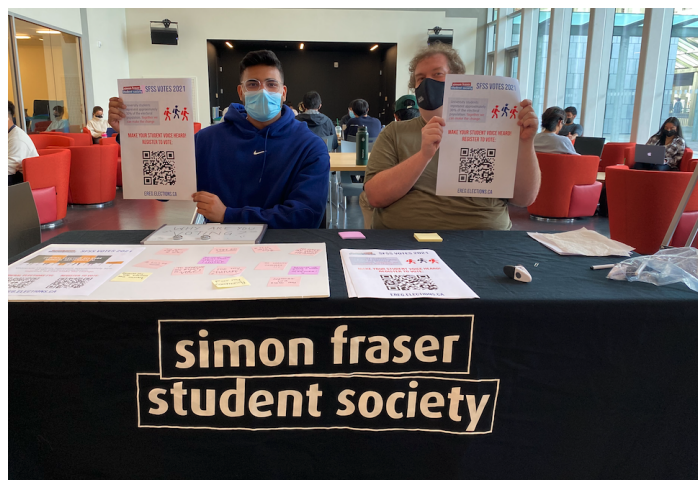


For the SFSS to participate in the federal elections processes we actually had to apply as a third party through Elections Canada to roll information around the elections. This was a lengthy process and actually delayed our ability to get out information to the SFSS membership.

We were unable to share any information until our application was approved, and since it was a snap election we had to wait until it was called to actually submit our application to be processed. So some key things to keep in mind ensure that this application is filled out as soon as possible as well as Elections Canada is really specific in what they need for the form:

- No electronic signatures
- You also need VP Finance and Services to fill this out
- We also need to ensure we have a separate account that is specifically for Federal Elections
- We can only spend at most \$500.00 specifically for the use Federal Elections

Due to the elections being called there were many barriers that we found, one was the application process but then to find out that there were no polling stations on campus made it difficult so we prepped information on registration for students as well as we planned to have tabling for the week before elections were happening. Most of the digital content was in place except for our print campaign. We actually only had a month to promote and we did our best under the circumstances we were in.





Fall Semester:

Completed:


Bargaining Collective Agreement

Summary:


The SFSS successfully completed Bargaining our collective agreement with CUPE Local 3338, this has been a year long process with our Unionized staff. Both sides passed the new collective agreement unanimously which is a historic moment as well as a major contribution to the labour community.

Both sides of the bargaining committee have demonstrated the ways in which we want to further create an equitable working environment and re-establish a better working relationship with all SFSS union members.

“The relationship between the Simon Fraser Student Society and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (the Union) has been nothing short of a rollercoaster. In 2011 during collective bargaining, the former SFSS Leadership and Management chose to abruptly end negotiations by locking out Society staff (union members) for over six months. The lockout ended with the Union accepting many cuts to working conditions including but certainly not limited to two-tier wages between Coordinators, among many more. Job turnover was at an all-time high, with staff resigning and/or being terminated due to the unjust power imbalance between management and staff. Many staff resigned due to bullying and harassment, and the Society’s relationship with the Union was virtually non-existent. As you can imagine, a workplace that is so severely fractured (and intentionally) by management is a workplace with low morale and an even more toxic atmosphere. After nearly a decade later, and a major governance overhaul restructuring in 2020, President Osob Mohamed picked up the fractured pieces left behind by her predecessors and (in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic), led the Society in a new direction. Osob, a Black and visible Muslim (and to our knowledge, the only Black



Muslimah President of the SFSS), led the Society with fairness and empathy. This included more involvement for Student Leadership, and bridging the gap between Executive Officers as part of the then called "Board of Directors" (now Council) and Society staff. The restructuring included an organizational overhaul of the entirety of Student Leadership to reflect accountability and transparency to students, and also included consolidating a plethora of union-excluded management positions from 7 to 3. Monies recovered from consolidating union-excluded positions contributed to providing Student Councillors a living wage for their labour and leadership. "We came into the bargaining process with two major goals in mind: to rectify harm caused by previous SFSS management by incorporating better workplace conditions for our staff, and to rebuild our relationship" shared Osob Mohamed, former SFSS President. Ayesha Khan, the Operations Organizer of the Society led the SFSS bargaining committee at the collective bargaining table, which was steered by Osob Mohamed (former SFSS President), Gabe Liosis (current SFSS President), Matthew Provost (current SFSS VP External Relations) and Corbett Gildersleve (current SFSS VP Internal & Organizational Development). Together, the SFSS bargaining committee worked to draft equitable proposals that would see tangible and long lasting improvements to working conditions for staff (many who are student employees). Current SFSS President Gabe Liosis shares that, "our staff are essential in being able to support the Society's activism, services, and supports for our Members. Without staff, we would not be able to exist in the way that we do. Many previous Boards did not take their role as an employer seriously. I am thrilled that during this round of bargaining, we were able to correct many of the harms created in the past, and pave the way for an equitable future for our employees." Their proposals sought to solve glaring gaps in the agreement that gave way for mismanagement and misinterpretation. With a committee composed of majority equity-seeking members (BIPOC, Disabled & Neurodiverse and 2SLGBTQIA+), they reimagined a new way forward that included repairing the severed relationship between the Society and the Union. Matthew Provost says he "wanted to ensure that we established and built a trusting relationship from a perspective of equity, support, and addressing core changes that ultimately would contribute to supporting our staff since they are integral to all of the work we do within the SFSS." The goal of the bargaining committee was to address inequities in the agreement including but limited to: • boost student wages; • remote work language; • strengthening the equity hiring statement to



include the active and intentional recruitment of intersectional applicants; • provide paid leave for Indigenous workers to observe ceremony; • provision of a representative from student constituency groups to act as an Employer representative on hiring committees in job competitions that directly impact their constituency; • bumping the paid allotment for child care to accurately reflect inflation rates; • providing staff with a more secure job training and education fund; • among more improvements. All of these (successfully negotiated) historical improvements listed above by the committee, encourage long-term job retention that will directly improve the Society as a whole. After nearly a year of negotiations with the Union, consensus was reached that fulfilled the mandates of both sides of the table. At the Union ratification meeting, the membership voted 100% in favour of the negotiated agreement. The next day, at a bustling and full SFSS Council meeting, Councillors also voted unanimously in favour of the negotiated agreement. “As a student society, the SFSS’s main functions include creating equitable spaces for our members to thrive. Our staff play a key role in helping us to make this happen. I am thrilled to hear an agreement has been reached, and look forward to watching the SFSS continue to grow” Mohamed shared. The historic support for the new agreement shows the communal strength to steer the Society forward together, equitably and collaboratively. In Solidarity, Osob Mohamed (President 2020-2021)Gabe Liosis (President 2021-2022)Matthew Provost (VP External Relations 2021-2022)Corbett Gildersleve (VP Internal & Organizational Development 2021-2022)”

Federal Elections Campaign

Summary:

The continuation of the campaign finalized in the Fall Semester, there was a snap election called in regards to the Federal Elections, as per my role as VP External and Community Affairs it is my responsibility to ensure that myself as well as the External and community Affairs committee is up to date with these events since it is directly related to student engagement.

We had a week-long event of tabling in the Student Union Building reminding students to vote either by mail or by registering to vote since there were no polling

stations on campus. We created digital content which included posters, QR codes, and information and 101 to Federal election materials to which students could understand who they were voting for and receive accessible information about elections in general.

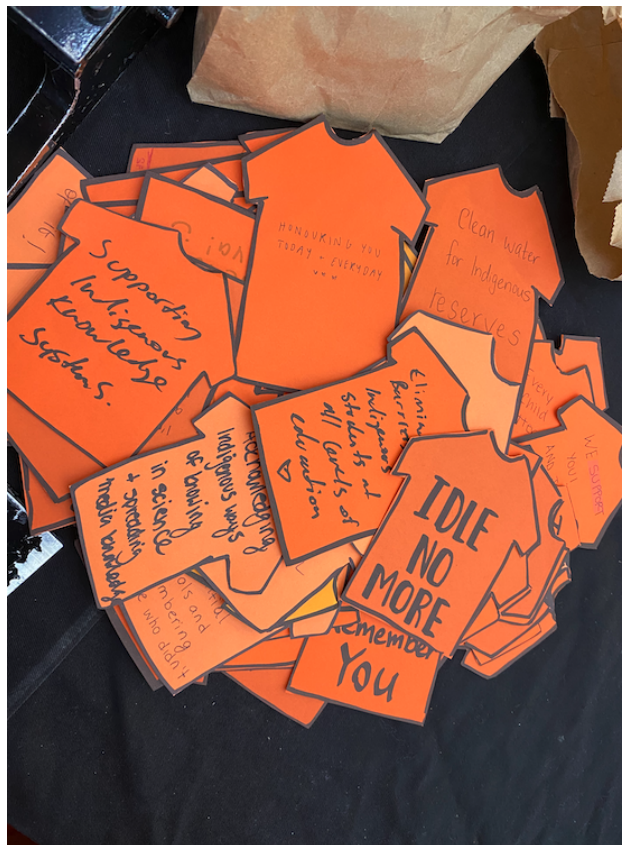


National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Summary:

Also known as Orange Shirt Day, the SFSS contributed to a month-long campaign for September. We were able to have an event to share and interact with students about the history of Orange Shirt Day as well as advocate for Indigenous communities who have been affected by the recent news of unmarked graves.

We were able to create resource guides as well as share other events being held by spaces on campus for students to participate in. The SFSS was able to create a





Annual General Meeting

Summary:

We had another successful Annual General Meeting at one point we had over 500 attendees, we were able to make changes and clean up the by-laws, as well and introducing a new By-law Proposal for SFSS Divestment which reads:

Whereas the Climate Crisis is real and the SFSS has a responsibility to current and future generations to act; Whereas the SFSS has ISP-1 (Investment Statement Policy) that includes restrictions on directly investing in fossil fuels;

Whereas the SFSS has IP-6 (Issues Policy: Climate Justice and Sustainability) that includes full divestment from fossil fuels, supporting investments in green and renewable infrastructure, and supporting student-led climate justice initiatives;

Whereas the SFSS and SFU350 worked together last year to bring forward an SFSS spring referendum question to enshrine the SFSS's fossil fuel free investment policy in the By-Laws; Whereas the referendum question received a 79% yes vote, well above the 2/3rds majority threshold, but did not meet the 5% of members voting quorum and therefore was not binding on the SFSS;

Be it resolved that the SFSS approve the following By-Law:

SFSS Investment Restrictions

All direct investments made by the Society shall be fossil fuel free, which includes oil, gas and coal producers, pipeline companies, natural gas distribution utilities, and liquefied natural gas operations.

All Indirect investment is limited to equities whose company only derives at most 5% of their gross revenue from fossil fuel investments

My contribution was supported in the Annual General Meeting report which I compiled with departments as well supported in the digital campaign by getting posters and social media content.



Alliance of BC Student: Summit Climate Action Initiative

Summary:

The Alliance of BC Students held their first in-person conference since the start of the Pandemic.

“The SCAI Summit is an opportunity to connect with students from across the province to engage in conversation and to take the necessary steps to take climate action! Our alliance of students across the province know that we need every single one of us on board to make lasting change, and soon. Time is never on our side when we continue to see droughts, forest fires, oil spills and lands and waters being taken for granted and harmed.”

For this conference I was able to organize members of the External Community Affairs Committee, SFU Student Groups such as SFU350 and Embark as well as current Executives to be delegates for the weekend. The SFSS also was able to contribute our own contributions and present our briefing note on our commitments to building alliances to take a stand for Climate Action. This was a great opportunity to meet other Student Societies to network and build community initiatives for divestment, building action initiatives, and supporting Indigenous solidarity movements within the climate movement.

[Briefing Note Climate Change Action SFSS](#)

[SCAI Summit Report](#)



SFSS x SFU Victoria Trip

Summary:

Myself and President Gabe Liosis attended the Legislative in November with folks from SFU which included Joy Johnson, SFU President, Joanne Curry VP External Affairs, and Nicole Rogers Government Relations in their annual trip.

During this trip we met with MLA Katrina Chen, Minister of Advanced Education Anne Kang, and Green Party Leader Sonia Furstenau. We discussed the upcoming review of the post secondary institution budget, Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project, as well as next steps for sustainability projects and action towards climate change.

While in Victoria we were able to see Question Period and receive an Honourable Mention from MLA Katrina Chen. It is essential for students to be in this decision making space and be able to share first hand the student experience. While discussing with Minister Kang, we brought up issues around students in post-secondary and the barriers they have been facing throughout the pandemic as well as the need for more support and resources for International students.





BC Flood Support

Summary:

Myself and Jess Dela Cruz organized flood relief for remote communities across British Columbia, we collaborated with SFU Departments such Ancillary Services, SFU Communications, and Student Engagement.

We needed to act urgently due to how many people in our communities were being affected. We utilized the Student Union as a hub for all donations to be collected as well as sorted with help and support from our building staff. From this point we were able to collaborate with West Coast Pilots in order to get the donations relocated to remote Indigenous communities. We also contributed to the Toy Drive as a portion of goods we collected since this was around the holiday season, these donations were dropped off at a location in Chilliwack.

At our November 23rd Council meeting the SFSS passed unanimously a motion to contribute \$10,000 which was proposed by myself and Jess Dela Cruz (VP Events). \$6000.00 was intended to go towards essential items which were purchased by myself, Jess, and President at the time Gabe Liosis at Costco through various trips. The remainder of funds has been donated to the First Nations Emergency Services Society. We collected over 2400 donations from toiletries, toys, clothing, menstrual and hygiene products, food, and much more.

Thank you again to all our students, staff, and faculty for the incredible support. Thank you SFSS, West Coast Pilot Clubs, GSS, SFU Childcare Society, University Highlands Elementary School, Point Church and UniverCity Communication Association, SFU Engagement, and SFU Ancillary Services, Chartwells, and our other partners for all your labour in putin this together.

Here is the [News Statement on the SFSS Website](#).



SFU Community Fridge Launch

Summary:

The SFU Community Free Fridge is a safe, low-barrier and non-judgemental way for students, staff and faculty to support each other to reduce waste and to ensure everyone in our community can feed themselves and their families. The fridge operates on the principle of “take something, leave something,” where no registration is required. The fridge is stocked with food twice a week to ensure there is enough food for the community at all times. The fridge is currently located in the SUB and is open during the hours of operation of the SUB. The sponsors of the fridge include: Embark, SFSS, the Burnaby Primary Care Network, Food Mesh, Burnaby Neighbourhood House, SFU Ancillary Services, and SFU’s Office of Community Engagement. Although the fridge is fully operational, this is an ongoing project to ensure that the project is meeting the needs of the community.



SUB Holiday Decoration

Summary:

For this project I was able to receive funds through the Executive Committee for the purchase of Christmas decorations for the Student Union Building. I received support from building staff for setting up as well as ensuring that the SUB was decorated for the holiday season.

This was considered a one time purchase since these decorations will be used throughout the years in the Building.



Christmas Care Packages for Residents

Summary:

For this project I support the VP Events in receiving and dropping off the care packages at Residents. This project was to support students who are on campus during the holiday season. I was happy to support and ensure students receive resources and items from the SFSS around this time of year.

It's essential to support our students, especially creating initiatives that support those who live on campus, the SFSS has done its best to create on campus projects and support. Due to the pandemic that has been difficult but hopefully in the near future this will be easier.




Spring Semester

Completed

Met with Provincial Health Officers

Summary:



With the return to campus the Executive committee and Student Senate Caucus met with PHO to discuss the decisions being made in the post secondary sector on the decision to return to campus during the rise of the Omicron variant.

We asked questions around masking, as well as support for students, rapid testing, and decision making process for safety of students, faculty and staff at SFU.

We wanted our concerns addressed, even though this meeting was not very helpful we wanted to ensure that we did our due diligence to address key concerns from the undergraduate community. We prepped for the meeting and aligned with other students to collaborate major areas of concern.

COVID-19 Student Survey


Summary:

The SFSS Executive and Council with staff support created a survey for the undergraduate membership on their experience in the Fall semester with the return to campus. I worked on this working group to create and develop the survey.

“The SFSS released a statement on December 23rd, 2021, calling on Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the Provincial Government to enact stricter health measures and provide immediate support for students returning to on-campus learning, noting concerns amid the rapid rise of the Omicron variant. As a student-focused and student-led organization, the SFSS’ decisions are, and continue to be, made with the intent of fostering community care and limiting the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19.

The Learning Experience and COVID-19 Student Feedback Survey was made available to students from January 11 to January 22 and received over 5,300 submissions. This data consists of nearly 20% of the SFSS Membership (SFU undergraduates). The findings indicate the main themes of student concern revolve around safety, health and wellness, and institutional action.

The data collected from the survey support calls by the SFSS and the students at large, particularly the calls to consider hybrid class options for courses with large enrollment numbers.



Almost 80% of students surveyed wanted some component of remote learning. 45% of the surveyed respondents highlighted the desire for comprehensive remote learning options, whereas 28% preferred a hybrid model, while 5% preferred remote learning with an in-person exam option. Respondents who felt safe about in-person teaching and learning during the Fall 2021 semester largely attributed it to the flexible teaching model adopted by the university.

When analyzing trends seen in the data, the SFSS identified 66% of respondents who expressed varying levels of discomfort in returning to full in-person learning, ranging from 'uncomfortable' to 'fairly comfortable' and 'slightly uncomfortable'. 30% of respondents identified feeling 'very comfortable' or 'comfortable'. The remaining respondents identified not applicable. Though students expressed a range of comfort with the return to campus plans, the data in correlation with the other answers determine that respondents prefer remote or hybrid forms. Many students stated in written responses that they were experiencing mental and emotional strain around in-person classes. You can find the results of the Learning Experience and COVID-19 Student Feedback Survey [here](#).

In line with calls for current student attendance models to be more accessible and equitable, 94% of students shared that they would benefit from lecture recordings for the Spring 2022 semester.

The past year has been difficult for students, staff, and others within the SFU community. Developing a teaching and learning framework that meets the needs of all students, especially those who are more vulnerable and at more risk of contracting COVID-19, is central to the themes continually highlighted in our survey results.

We continue to call on Simon Fraser University to develop a viable contingency plan based on inclusive consultations with its community members. This includes providing flexible and reliable measures on managing absences, developing a robust contact tracing system, and continually checking the validity of vaccine declarations. We also call on Simon Fraser University to adequately provide support and resources to combat COVID-19 exposure for students and staff."



Reallocation of \$25,000 for PPE for Students

Summary:

We were able to contribute and reallocate funds of \$25,000 towards proper PPE for students during the remainder of the pandemic. We wanted to ensure that funds were made available so that students could have access to proper KN95 masks that were medical grade.

We wanted to ensure that funds put aside to support students throughout COVID-19 were being utilized especially during times that were uncertain. The SFSS Executive wanted to continue to support students by providing resources, supplies, and materials to continue to ensure safety on campus while amidst a pandemic.

Sanitizer Donation

Summary:

With the support of staff we were able to secure a 4000 supply of sanitizer that was donated from London Drugs for student use. They were dropped off at the Student Union Building and were approved by myself and other Executives. These supplies are currently being utilized to support students across campus and folks housed in the Student Union Building.

We have been building external partner relationships to access support and build relationships to access resources for students. It definitely has been very helpful since we can access resources as needed. This is one example that has been helpful for student support in regards to COVID-19 relief.

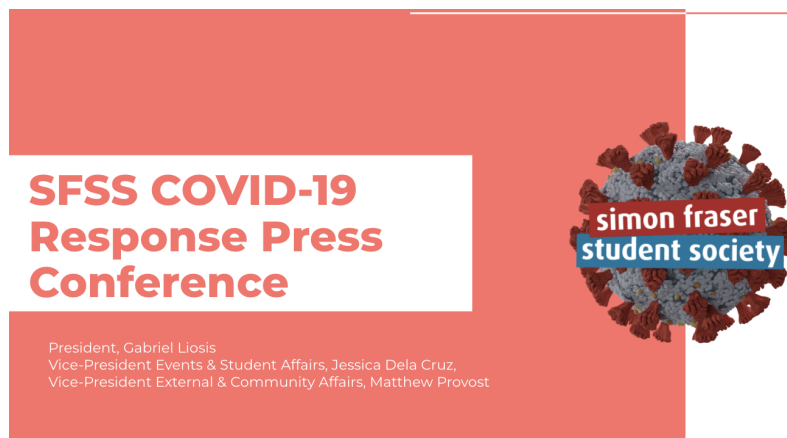
COVID-19 Press Conference

Summary

For this Press Conference there was a lot of background organizing that happened internally with Executive and Support staff. In regards to planning we wanted to ensure that this process was being executed in the best way possible. We were able to have a lot of engagement which was supported through our communications department for graphics and social media presence. We also had coordinators support through relaying information through our student survey to report on to membership and community.

We utilized information from the Student Survey to relay our results. Myself, Jess Dela Cruz and Gabe Liosis planned a presentation for the press conference. We coordinated with staff to livestream via YouTube for students to watch remotely. We also contacted media outlets and created a press release to send out to folks who attended. We took on a bulk of the work to make this happen since this was the first press conference in the first few years for the society, and we also learned a lot around coordinating as well as live streaming support. With some technical errors we definitely made sure to follow if information was missed while going through our main points.

[See Presentation Here](#)





Gondola Townhall


Summary:

As the VP External I have been working closely with SFU to partner on the advocacy for the Gondola Project. With the Burnaby City Council voting on the project it was essential to push advocacy efforts through the roof. The vote was successful through Burnaby City Council and the Student Society has gone to great lengths to support this project for over a decade.

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) has supported the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project proposal along with SFU in order to advocate safe reliable public transportation for undergraduate students and the SFU Community. the society has been advocating for the proposed Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project (BMGT) via the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Campaign (#GiveAStudentALift) throughout the last 13 years, which has included various collaborative campaigns aligned with SFU. The SFSS hosted an open house on January 21 & 22 2020, during the open house, over 700 students and SFU community members participated and 70 students provided comments through the interactive commentary board.

SFSS support for the BMGT project is long-standing. In 2009, the SFSS adopted the Promotion of Public Transportation Policy, which included an endorsement of a gondola system connecting Burnaby Campus to the Production Way-University SkyTrain station.

In the last few years we have seen the ways in which the SFSS has supported the gondola project, we have lobbied and written many letters of support, and advocacy efforts aimed at various levels of government which includes Burnaby City Councilors, MLA's, and MP's,



As well as the 2019 SFSS board of directors resolved to support the BMGT project as it provides an added evacuation measure in the event the two exit routes on Burnaby Mountain become blocked due to weather or hazardous events at the Burnaby Mountain Tank Farm. The BMGT has been identified as a sustainable means of transportation, the project would reduce traffic congestion and parking, and minimize greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from vehicle travel by 2,348 tonnes annually.

As of right now we know that approximately 73% of students at SFU rely on public transit as SFU is commonly referred to as the commuter campus. According to our 2019 SFSS Advocacy Survey Results 94.4% of the canvassed SFSS membership notes that reliable Translink as very important and essential.

I am happy to say I was a part of this process and was happy to present this for the town hall. For this townhall I was also able to approve funding for a promotional budget as well as work with our Board Organizer on working with key stakeholders to come present during this town hall as well. The event was successful as we had alumni and other community supporters and especially students to come learn more about the advocacy efforts. I was able to prepare my presentation which will be linked here.

[See Presentation Here](#)





Tabling for SFSS Info Sessions

Summary

Myself and VP Events planned varying tabling events and information sessions for students to come ask questions and learn more about the SFSS and what we do. We did this a few times within the SUB with the support of staff. We also used this time to hand out masks and donations received from external donations to share our contributions with our membership.

We also used this as an opportunity to update membership on what has been happening at Council meetings as well as upcoming events, committees, and involvement opportunities can happen within the society.


It was nice to connect with students in person as well as building relationships in the SUB as this is an essential part of engagement. I would like to see this happen again on a regular basis not only with Executives but with members of Council to have weekly tabling to update, share, and have presence in our new building.

2021 Champions for a Healthy Campus Award

Summary:

On behalf of the SFSS I had support from SFU to submit the nomination package, I was very happy to have been able to do this since there has been so much hard work into contributing to making SFU a better place especially for our membership and community. We have done so much especially with the SUB, this has been a long time coming and there will be more to come in contribution to a healthy campus.

The Build SFU Project is being recognized for its outstanding contributions to SFU student health and well-being through the completion of the [Student Union](#)



Building (SUB) and is a 2021 recipient of the Champions for a Healthy Campus Community award.

CREATING A DESIGNATED SPACE FOR STUDENT WELL-BEING

Serving as a central hub for the SFU community on the Burnaby campus, the SUB welcomes undergraduate and graduate students to a welcoming and beautiful space designed with student well-being in mind. Corbett Gildersleve, Acting President of the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) describes, "What makes [the SUB] unique is that it's really strongly designed to be a social hub and community hub." Well-being was one of the key principles emphasized in the design of the SUB, and that can be clearly seen through the many ways students are using and connecting in this space. Through its unique considerations of student needs, the SUB offers a variety of spaces from leisure spaces, including a dance studio, gaming lounge, community kitchen, nap room, and multipurpose ballroom, to bookable meeting rooms, and SFSS offices. With designated spaces for equity-deserving groups on campus, including the First Nations, Métis, & Inuit Student Association (FNSA), Out On Campus (OOC), Women's Centre, SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA), and the first-ever office for the Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA), the SUB prioritizes inclusion and celebrates the diversity of students on campus.

<https://www.sfu.ca/healthycampuscommunity/champions/sfu-build-student-union-building-awarded-as-a-healthy-campus-community-champion/>



Photography: © 2021 Michael Elkan

HEALTHY CAMPUS COMMUNITY CHAMPION

**Build SFU Project's Student Union Building
Awarded as a 2021 Healthy Campus Community
Champion**



Contribution to Global Shapers Community Vancouver Donation

Summary:

At the Executive Committee Meeting we passed a motion to contribute \$3000.00 to the Global Shapers Community for Black History Month, we wanted to ensure that we made contributions that went towards supporting and uplifting Black Community Members. Global Shapers Community Vancouver is hosting on Thursday, February 18th “to host a *virtual* evening of discourse, led by Black voices, to unpack themes such as Black Disability Justice in a panel discussion titled, ‘Imagining Black Futures’ where the “evening will consist of solidarity building with Black communities and allies here and far; addressing the linkages between race and class, white supremacy and ableism; and action items on how to effectively act in solidarity with the Black community”


Singing on to Our Bill 22 Coalition

Summary:

The SFSS Executive signed on to Our Bill 22 Coalition as I was forwarded this campaign and also reached out to the Student Press Freedom Act BC.

I proposed a motion to sign on to support their campaign and coalition since this directly impacts access to information as well as will create barriers in accessing public information. The BC NDP Government is proposing amendments to Bill 22 BC's Freedom of Information and Privacy Act. These amendments will reduce transparency in various levels. This also will directly impact The Peak and various other alternative media outlets.

<https://fipa.bc.ca/transparency-matters/our-bill-22-coalition/>
<https://fipa.bc.ca/transparency-matters/bill-22-a-call-to-action/>
<https://twitter.com/SPFACampaign/status/1452337122527137799>



There are over 2,900 public bodies that are in accordance with the current BC's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act which includes Simon Fraser University as well as other universities across British Columbia who will be subject to these amendments. The amendments proposed will create barriers for the ability for student run media outlets as well as alternative media outlets to do their work sustainably and the implementation of fees in regards to accessing public information is directly creating limitations and unnecessary barriers to accessing public information.

SUB Bookable Rooms for immunocompromised students and students with immunocompromised kin

Summary:

Due to the rise in the Omicron Variant and the return to campus I worked with Serena Bains VPUBA, our Building Manager, and DNA to support Immunocompromised students on campus. We were able to allocate two rooms with adequate air purifiers, and supplies in the space so folks could study in areas if they felt they were at risk of contracting COVID while on campus.

We wanted to ensure that these spaces were accessible to and worked with DNA and consulted to what would be most appropriate for these spaces. I am glad to have been able to make this happen.





Associate Vice-President External & Community Affairs Appointment

Summary:

The Executive Committee ratified the nomination brought forth from myself to appoint Eshana Baran as an additional Associate Vice President External and Community Affairs for 2021-2022.

This role is intended to be support for the VP External in various capacities, and that support will be provided by the AVP External in meetings, research, committee support etc.

MSC Generalist Hiring Committee

Summary:

I was a part of this hiring committee to ensure we secured a generalist to support the work in our Member Services department. This is a new role which has been created and we were able to find a successful candidate and this will help support in varying ways by booking and supporting events through clubs, rooms bookings, and planning and supporting events.

Council 2021-2022 Merchandise:

Summary:


For this project I supported councillors receiving their sweaters for the year, this is yearly practice done where folks will use these at public events to represent the SFSS. I am glad we were able to finish this up. We were able to purchase 105 sweaters with the SFSS Logo embroidered on a hoodie.



SFSS Activism Project

Summary:

This has been a carry over project from the last board year from the Science Rep WeiChun Kua and VP Events Jennifer Chou. I was able to carry out and finalize this project with our Building Manager to have SFSS Activism history portrayed throughout the Student Union Building.



There will be plans to create a wall of activism on level 3000, and varying pictures throughout the building to showcase activism culture on campus. This project also has the opportunity to grow as more actions take place. The intention of the wall was to add on to events, actions and protests that take place on campus. This is to show the history, and archive key moments to keep the intention of student power. Very glad to have been able to support this project, I am also looking forward to seeing it up in the near future. Thank you everyone for your contributions to this project.

Staff Honouring Ceremony

Summary:

I worked with VP Events Jess Dela Cruz and our Events coordinator to plan an honoring ceremony for our Staff at the SFSS to uplift and recognize the work they have been doing throughout the duration of the pandemic. They have been a key part in everything we do, especially ensuring the back end things get done so we are able to continue our work.

We were able to have Indigenous community members come up and blanket our staff, we had catering for everyone, as well as games and activities for folks to participate.





Affiliated Student Groups Council Seats

Summary:

At the April 28th 2022 Council Meeting, it was passed through the SFSS Council to appoint new seats for SFPIRG, Embark, and TSSU on the SFSS Council for undergraduate seats. Due to the notice of motion I proposed this motion prior as well as worked with groups to collaborate and present at the SFSS Council meeting to deliberate and support this motion. These groups are integral to the community space at SFU for undergraduate students. As SFSS bylaws allow for the creation of Council seats for affiliate student groups who has affiliation with members and have indicated interests to be a part of the Council, all of whom share membership with the SFSS, to be added to Council alongside current Affiliated Student groups such as SAAC and RHA.

Background:

The SFSS is a part of a community of student groups on campus, some of which share membership fully or don't share at all.

1. *The SFSS is a part of a community of student groups on campus, some of which share membership fully, partially or do not share membership but all who contribute to the fabric of the student community at SFU. SFPIRG, CJSF, Embark, The Peak, GSS and SFSS are the 6 separately incorporated student societies that exist that have been established by a student vote, while TSSU was established as a labour union by members which include TA/TMs/Sessionals/Instructors and RAs, many of which are undergraduates*
2. *Student societies such as York Federation of Students and many others have representations of some of these independent student societies on their Council (GSS holds a seat at UBC AMS even though they are also separate) to ensure a cross section of the community has their voice.*
 - a. *This is similar to what the intention behind ensuring DSU representation on council was.*
3. *GSS at SFU also has representation / or the mechanism for representation on their council for groups who are affiliates, one of which is TSSU, who the GSS*

share many members

4. Any such appointments would be done in alignment with SFSS bylaws which state that members of Council must be in Members in good standing, which SFSS would have to verify. Groups would appoint as outlined in Bylaw 5.2.d which would be either member of their ASG to be elected by that ASG.



VP Communications & Marketing Search Committee

I had the opportunity to sit as a student representative for this search committee which is a brand new role. Myself, GSS, Office for Aboriginal Peoples and varying other folks across SFU went through an internal candidate search which ended up being successful.

It's so important to have student representation on these search committees in order to support and hire folks who will have an impact on students.



End of Year Presentation at Council

Summary:

The Executive Committee presented at Council our end of year presentation which was an overview of the current year we had as an Exec and Council. We went through various projects, campaigns, and milestones we covered while at SFSS. We also outlined our monetary contributions to the community.

[Link to presentation here](#)

Continuing

Tuition Waiver for Indigenous Residential School Survivors and Kin

Summary:

I worked with Serena Bains VP University for tuition waivers for Indigenous residential school survivors and kin would allow folks to attend SFU tuition-free. We had preliminary discussions with SFU Administration and they stated that they would like to avoid policing who is Indigenous and who is not, therefore, if they were to implement such a program they would prefer making it available to all Indigenous students. SFU Administration are currently exploring and researching the possibility of providing this to Indigenous students. It is important to recognize that the incoming Executive Committee does not have any Indigenous members. Thus, it will be of utmost importance to collaborate with the SFU First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Association (FNMISA) and Indigenous community members.

Next Steps

- Follow up with the SFU Administration about the status of this project.
- Meet with FNMISA to discuss this project.



Vice-Provost Indigenous Search Committee

During the summer semester I have put my name forward to sit on the Search Committee for the inaugural VPI. This search committee started this summer semester and will be ongoing in the fall. I have put my name forward to sit on this search committee since this will be a key role in supporting and working on Indigenous centered work within the institution.

We have been developing the role within the job description as well as expectations we have for this position. We have been able to address responsibilities and support that SFU will provide for this role.

We are still in the interim stages of this project, and this will be ongoing for the duration of the fall semester.

First Peoples Gathering House Committee

After much advocacy from Indigenous students and community we have seen more transparency in regards to including student voices on the First Peoples Gathering House. I have been following up with this committee and attending open houses, as well as meetings in the processes of the FPGH. Consultation has been a key priority due to this space being intended for Indigenous students as well Indigenous community and the process of this space being established needed to centre and amplify the voices of our community members.

International Student Advocacy Office

Migrant Students United in the 2020 SFSS term came to the Board and asked for support in establishing this office in order to support International students. The SFSS at the time endorsed this project but did not commit to financial support.

It would be a benefit for the SFSS to continue working with MSU to support this project and collaborate with International Student Advocates and folks on campus and lobby the university as well as provincial governments and gain support with other student societies to help fund this amazing resource.



Wellness Working Group

Prioritizing wellness initiatives for undergraduate students through working groups and connecting with SFU Health and Counselling to continue to support initiatives as well as build low barriers and low cost support for mental wellness.

External Resources for Students

This is an ongoing project that will continuously need to be updated. Next steps would be to go through resources that are readily available and make them accessible on our website via quick links. I would suggest working with the Student Advocacy Office to finalize this project.

Issues Policies

- Affordable housing
- Meaningful Consultation
- De-Escalation & Harm Reduction
- International Student Support

Extra Content:

[Here is a link to all the motions I have submitted this year](#)

