



**2020-2021**

# **Annual General Report**

["We acknowledge that this meeting will be presented on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples; which, to the current knowledge of the Society, include the Squamish, Musqueam, Stó:lō, and Tsleil-Waututh people."]

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the President	... 3
Letter from Council	... 5
Introduction	... 6
2020/21 Board of Directors	... 7
2021/22 Executive Council	... 9
Council 2020/2021	...11
SFSS Departments	... 13
SFSS Student Centre	... 14
Stadium	... 14
Student Union Building	... 15
Student Union Resource Office	... 15
Surrey Office	... 16
Women's Centre	... 16
Out on Campus	... 17
Campaigns, Research and Policy	... 18
Communications	... 18
Events	... 19
 SFSS Committees	 ... 20
2020/2021 Advocacy Highlights	... 21
Events Committee	... 23
Surrey Campus Committee	... 24
Governance Committee	... 24
University and Academic Affairs Committee	... 25
External and Community Affairs Committee	... 25
Accessibility Committee	... 26
Black, Indigenous and People of Colour Committee	... 27
Finance and Administrative Services Committee	... 27
Human Resources and Personnel Committee	... 28
Member Services Advisory Committee	... 28
Faculty and At-Large Members	... 28
 SFSS Services	 ... 29
U-Pass	... 30
Health and Dental	... 30
Legal Clinic	... 30
Food Bank	... 30

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My name is Gabe Liosis, and I am the President of the Simon Fraser Student Society for the 2021/22 academic year. I want to first acknowledge that the SFSS and Simon Fraser University, the location where we engage in our work, are located on the traditional, unceded, and ancestral territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including xʷməθkʷəy̓ əm (Musqueam), Skwx̱ wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikwə́ł əm (Kwkwetlem) and q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie) Nations. It is a privilege to be doing our work on these lands - and we must always center the knowledge that we are settlers on these lands in the work that we do as a Student Society. Acknowledging the stewards of these lands must be more than a symbolic gesture, but a recurring commitment of our unwavering solidarity with Indigenous communities in the face of settler colonialism and to always be pushing for systemic change, whether at a University level or societally. Now more than ever, we need to take action, not engage in hollow and symbolic gestures. During what is a very traumatic time, we must be ready to listen -- and to act.

COVID-19 has, and continues to be, a once-in-a-generation event that has single-handedly changed our way of living. For more than a year and a half, we have had to pivot in order to continue providing services, advocacy, campaigns, and support for undergraduate students. If the pandemic has taught us anything: now more than ever, even during times of great uncertainty, we need a strong, unwavering, and resilient student society to fight on behalf of undergraduate students. Over the last year, we engaged in strong University advocacy, successfully advocating that SFU implement a Pass/Credit/No Credit Grading Scheme to recognize the hardships that students experienced academically during COVID-19. We continued to push our strong support for the construction of a Burnaby Mountain Gondola - having multiple meetings and dialogues with TransLink and key community stakeholders. We put pressure on SFU's commitments surrounding Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). These include successfully advocating for an Executive-level equity portfolio, which resulted in the SFU establishing the Vice President Peoples, Equity, and Inclusion portfolio; supporting the student campaigners that successfully led the SFU Athletics team name change campaign; and pushing SFU to prioritize consultations with marginalized and equity-deserving communities. We are also very excited that, in a change to the SFSS's By-Laws at the 2020 SFSS Annual General Meeting, we implemented a new equity focused Executive position within our own organization: the Vice-President Equity and Sustainability.

Further stemming from the 2020 SFSS Annual General Meeting, we worked hard to implement the changes to our By-Laws approved overwhelmingly by our membership that saw a fundamental shift in the structure of our organization, where we pivoted away from an organization led by a 16-person Board of Directors to a Council of up to 60 Councillors, each representing a smaller constituency, and expanding the democratic process within the Society.

Most notably, at the 2020 SFSS Annual General Meeting, with a record turnout of 600+ undergraduate students, we overwhelmingly passed a resolution to condemn SFU for raising our tuition during a global pandemic, further thrusting students into financial hardship. The advocacy for a tuition freeze is not over, though. We will continue to push SFU and the provincial government to freeze tuition, prioritize public funding for post-secondary education, and knock down financial barriers to accessing University.

In November 2020, the construction of the long awaited Student Union Building was completed. Due to safety concerns because of COVID-19, we were unable to open the Student Union Building to the general public until we knew it was safe to do so.

The Student Union Building was a critical component of the BuildSFU Project, which was initiated in 2011. For the last 10 years, every undergraduate student has contributed in some way, big or small, in making the SUB a reality - whether that includes your contributions to funding of the SUB through the BuildSFU Levy, voting in a referendum to give the SUB its name, or partaking in student consultations to determine what the makeup of the building was going to look like. The SUB was a collaborative effort, by thousands of students over a period of 10 years. We are thrilled that with students now receiving their education largely in an in-person manner this semester, that we were finally able to open the Student Union Building!

We are in a historic moment. We are experiencing a global pandemic, the return to in-person learning after nearly a year and a half of virtual instruction, and the underlying anxiety that COVID-19 still exists and poses a threat. As a student society, we recognize that we live in a time where change is constantly happening, and it is hard to feel a sense of stability. We will work tirelessly to ensure that your safety and wellbeing are our top priority so that students can thrive everywhere.

In solidarity,

Gabe Liosis  
President of the Simon Fraser Student Society

# LETTER FROM COUNCIL

Dear SFSS Members,

This Annual Report is meant to provide you with an overview of the key campaigns, projects, initiatives and accomplishments over the last year. The 2020/21 Board of Directors was the first and only Board to complete their one-year term 100% remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This presented many challenges, but with the strong support of our Membership, our staff, committees, volunteers, and community members, we accomplished more than we could have imagined!

The 2020/21 Board of Directors sought to fundamentally change the direction of the Society towards one that is centered around Building Student Power. However, the establishment of this vision could not have been made possible without the dedication and devotion of our staff who contribute to the day-to-day operations of the Society, ensuring that our members are provided with easy access services, reliable advocacy and activism, and strong support and resources.

One realization was made clear during the past year: change does not take time, it takes pressure. When we can all come together, and organize around issues that are impacting not just everyone, but the most marginalized within our community, we can accomplish almost anything. SFU was once known as the “radical campus”, and we’ve seen a significant resurgence of this sentiment over the past year.

The SFSS Council would like to thank you for your support and dedication. We are beyond grateful for your support and for the opportunity to be engaging in this activism on your behalf.

Best,  
The Simon Fraser Student Society Council



# INTRODUCTION

## About the Simon Fraser Student Society

The Simon Fraser Student Society is a student-led organization that represents and advocates for the interests of 25,000+ undergraduate students at SFU. We are your non-for-profit support network and voice at SFU and provide services and support to make your student life better. We are here to advocate for students, build student power, and provide resources and services that represent, connect and benefit our membership.

The SFSS is governed by a student-elected Council who act as the Board of Directors. This Council is composed of elected executive officers, constituency group, student union, and affiliated student group representatives. Elections occur throughout the spring term each year.



# SFSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# 2020 - 2021



# 2020/2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Osob Mohamed**  
President



**Samad Raza**  
VP External Relations



**Matthew Provost**  
VP Student Services



**Corbett Gildersleve**  
VP Finance



**Jennifer Chou**  
VP Student Life



**Gabe Liosis**  
VP University Relations



**Harry Preet Singh**  
Applied Sciences Rep



**Sude Guvendik**  
Arts & Social Sciences Rep



**Mehtaab Gill**  
Business Rep



**Haider Masood**  
Communications, Art, &  
Technology Rep



**Emerly Liu**  
Education Rep



**Anuki Karunajeewa**  
Environment Rep



**Nafoni Modi**  
Health Science Rep



**WeiChun Kua**  
Sciences Rep



**Balqees Jama**  
At-Large Rep



**Phum Luckkid**  
At-Large Rep

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



# 2021 - 2022



# 2021/2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Gabe Liosis**  
President



**Corbett Gildersleve**  
VP Internal & Organizational  
Development



**Almas Phangura**  
VP Finance & Services



**Serena Bains**  
VP University &  
Academic Affairs



**Matthew Provost**  
VP External &  
Community Affairs



**Marie Haddad**  
VP Equity &  
Sustainability



**Jess Dela Cruz**  
VP Events & Student  
Affairs

# COUNCIL 2020/2021

Behavioural Neuroscience  
Society of Arts and Social Sciences  
History Student Union  
VP Finance and Services  
Film Student Union  
Communications Student Union  
Operations Research Student Union  
Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Student Union (MBBSU)  
Mathematics Student Union  
Philosophy Student Union  
Criminology Student Association  
Environmental Science Student Union  
VP Internal and Organizational Development  
Archaeology Student Society (ASS)  
International Studies Student Association (ISSA)  
Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies Student Union  
Indigenous Studies Student Union  
Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association (SASSA)  
Global Asia Studies Student Union  
Bachelor of Environment Student Union  
President  
Physics Student Association  
Chemistry Student Society  
Assistant Vice President University and Academic Affairs  
Political Science Student Union  
Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union (IATSU)  
VP Events and Student Affairs  
Education Student Association  
Cognitive Science Student Society  
Health Science Undergraduate Student Union  
Labour Studies Student Union  
Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Student Association (BPKSA)  
Sociology and Anthropology Student Union (SASU)  
First Nations Student Association  
French Student Union  
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry (SOCA)  
English Student Union  
Economics Student Society

**Aarthi Srinivasan  
Akum Sidhu  
Allan Saunderson  
Almas Phangura  
Amélia Simard  
Ashran Bharosha  
Ashutosh Dubal  
Avneet Kaur  
Ben Tischler  
Chang (Tony) Yu  
Charlotte Taylor-Baer  
Chloe Homenukes  
Corbett Gildersleve  
Damon Tarrant  
Deanna Short  
Devynn Butterworth  
Estephanie Henriquez  
Eui Jeong (Stephanie) Chung  
Eunice Wing-Lam Kwok  
Evan McFee  
Gabe Liosis  
Graham Rich  
Gwen Bui  
Hanah Bazzi  
Abhishek Parmar  
Jeremy Felix  
Jess Dela Cruz  
Jihye (Jin) Choi  
Joanna Cheong  
Jocelle Refol  
Justin Chen  
Kashish Mehta  
Kayla Chow  
Keianna James  
Kylee Pocrnich  
Linda Kanyamuna  
Liz Giardin  
Mahindhar Kumar**

VP Equity and Sustainability  
VP External and Community Affairs  
Linguistics Student Union  
Sustainable Engery Engineering Student Society  
Geography Student Union  
Biology Student Union (BSU)  
Women Center Collective  
Student Atheletes Advisory Committee  
International Student Advocates  
Computing Science Student Society  
Mechatronic Systems Engineering Student Society  
Theatre Student Union  
World Languages and Literature Student Union  
Engineering Science Student Society  
VP University and Academic Affairs  
Software System Student Society (SSSS)  
Psychology Student Union  
Data Science Student Society  
Science Undergraduate Society (SUS)

**Marie Haddad**  
**Matt Provost**  
**Micaela Bilot**  
**Mohammad Al-Sheboul**  
**Natasha Kearns**  
**Nicolas Bonilla**  
**Nisha Manhas**  
**Paul Ursu**  
**Quynh Chi Bui**  
**Ryan Vansickle**  
**Ryley McWilliams**  
**Samantha Walters**  
**Sara Aristizabal Castaneda-**  
**Sarah Raisuddin**  
**Serena Bains**  
**Shashank Thanalapati**  
**Tiffany Liu**  
**Warren Ho Kin**  
**Zaid Lari**



# 2020/2021 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

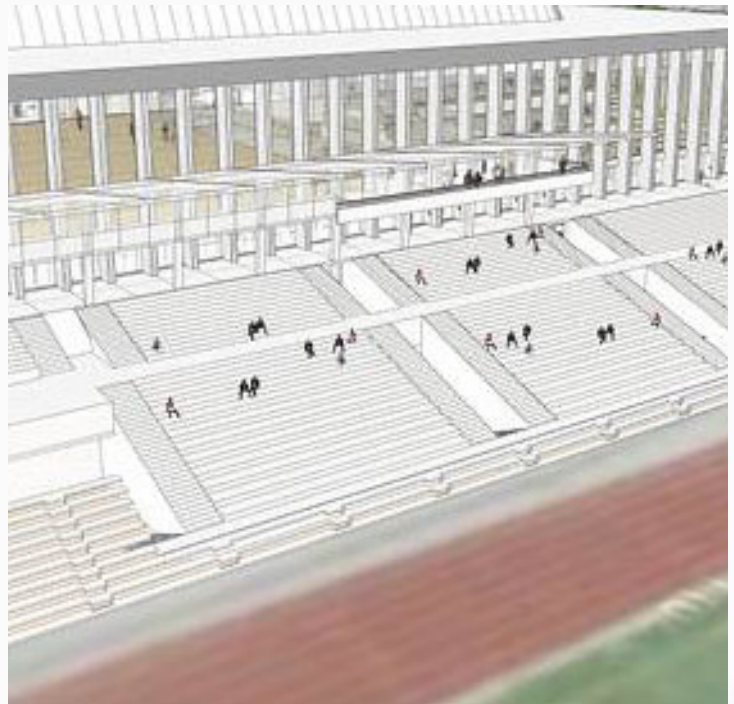


# STUDENT CENTRE

Over this past fiscal year, there continued to be many updates to operational processes and policies for the services offered to our members. We have continued to adapt to the changes brought upon us by COVID-19 with the uncertainty of different mandates that have been placed on us during this pandemic. Updates were implemented based on numerous factors, ranging from general member feedback, SFU department policies, and government mandates. We are also excited to begin operations in our new home within the new Student Union Building and have been preparing accordingly.

## Key updates include:

- Revised Funding Guidelines to accommodate online events during COVID-19 based on member feedback
- Expanded online resources for members and club executives
- Continued the SFU Co-Curricular Record for Clubs executives
- Updated the Club Proposal application and process and implemented insurer consultation
- Made improvements to the Club Portal and administration system
- Adapted various procedures to streamline the procedures during COVID-19 including In-Person Event Guidelines
- Preparations for the re-opening of the Student Centre
- Over 371 club grants processed during COVID-19
- Hiring additional Member Services Administrative Assistants to expand our team
- 3 successful virtual Club Days



# STADIUM

Construction of the stadium at Terry Fox Field began in March 2019, the partially covered outdoor seating area on the hillside north of the field will have 1,800 fixed seats, an accessible concourse, washrooms, integrated sound system, fully accessible VIP box, coaches booths, and broadcast and media facilities. Spectators will have panoramic views of the region from the grandstand, which faces south. The ground floor of the stadium will also include a football locker room, sports medicine taping room, and storage space. This project will be funded in part by a \$10 million contribution from students with payment starting at the point of substantial completion which is projected for June 2021.

# STUDENT UNION BUILDING

Construction of the Student Union Building (SUB) began in 2016 and at approximately 1113,000 square feet, the \$55 million SUB will provide space for social gathering, studying, lounging, activities, celebrating, and enhancing the student experience at SFU. Construction continued on the SUB but experienced delays during the year as a result of a very busy construction market, Covid-19 and other issues encountered on the construction site.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- The project reached Substantial completion August 2020, this meant that the majority of work within the contractor's scope was completed and that the building was safe to occupy
- The external landscaping was completed including the benches and the under bench lighting
- Extensive deficiency reviews were carried out
- Planning commenced for the society's transition from the MBC to the SUB
- Operational discussions around IT, custodial, preventative maintenance planning and access control etc. began with university
- The project remained on budget



# STUDENT UNION RESOURCE OFFICE

The SFSS Student Union Resource Office supports the 50+ currently active student unions and constituency groups. The Office offers resources for event and project planning and ensure that the leadership teams have everything they need to succeed.

During this pandemic year the department has focused on the following areas:

- Updating resources according to the current PHO orders
- Participated in virtual Clubs Day
- Subsidized online workshops in lieu of the usual in-person offerings
- Prepared and moved into the new SUB office
- As usual, assisted Student Unions and Groups organizing their Elections, Virtual Events and Projects



# SURREY CAMPUS

The SFSS Surrey Office is located at the Surrey Campus in the SRYC Building. The campus is home to 4,000+ full time students and approximately 10,000 students overall annually. This campus is continually expanding and the office supports 30-40 clubs that are regularly active in Surrey as well as 4 SUs housed there and several others that have activities in Surrey. The office itself is located at the back of the Surrey lounge which provides students with space to study, socialize, eat and relax (as the only public space on Surrey Campus that permits students to sleep). Resources such as safer sex and menstrual supplies are available to students in the lounge. The Member Services Coordinator for Surrey ensures that clubs, SUs, the general student population, and SFU SFU Staff and Administration have access to all things SFSS related just as they do in Burnaby.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

The Surrey office and lounge were closed due to Covid for most of 2020/2021. The MSC spent the year working closely with other coordinators to ensure that SFSS Services were provided virtually to all members regardless of campus. This included:

- Formalizing and implementing online services such as cheque requisitions and planning and funding online events
- Working closely with MECS as the lead on several successful Virtual Clubs Days
- Hosting guest presenters in a series of Tidy Tuesdays workshops and a successful social media workshop

- Regular SCC meetings
- Doing research for the policy department and working with the communications team
- Sitting as a member of the SFU Surrey Student Services Hiring committee
- Keeping the Surrey space Covid safe for use by SCC, and the SFSS executive and preparing the space for reopening

# WOMEN'S CENTRE

During the COVID pandemic, the Women's Centre switched all its services to be online. The Centre had over 40 events online on Zoom, and the most popular was "Unpacking anti Black Racism: How to Become a Better Ally". The Center facilitators are mostly women of color and numerous among them self-identify as queer.

The Women's Centre Coordinator started a mailout program from home with: safer sex materials, veggie seeds for food security, non-medical reusable masks, reusable pads, sunscreen and more! She processed over 2000 orders. She also provided referrals and job help by phone and over Zoom and the Centre increased its outreach over the pandemic.

The Women's Centre typically organizes events in response to what women say they would like and according to what fits within the year plan of events such as:

- International Women's Day
- SAAM Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Dec 6 Ecole Polytechnique memorials

Additionally, the Centre organized 3 to 5 events a month, all viewable on Facebook.



- Won the 2020 SFU Champions for a Healthy Campus Community Award
- Supported the SFU and FIC student-led "We Were Here, We Were Queer" art and poetry zine
- Helped organize an online discussion "With Pride: An SFU LGBTQ2+ Forum" about opportunities and challenges facing the LGBTQ2+ community at SFU with speakers President Joy Johnson and J.S. Woodsworth Resident Scholar Svend Robinson
- Moved from the previous location in the Rotunda to the Student Union Building, room 2230, to continue providing our in-person services

## OUT ON CAMPUS

Out on Campus is a department of the Simon Fraser Student Society dedicated to supporting SFU and FIC LGBTQ+ students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty, staff, alumni and allies. It operates a lounge, an active Discord server, and offer year-round events, free safer-sex supplies, menstrual products, educational resources, referrals to services, and more!

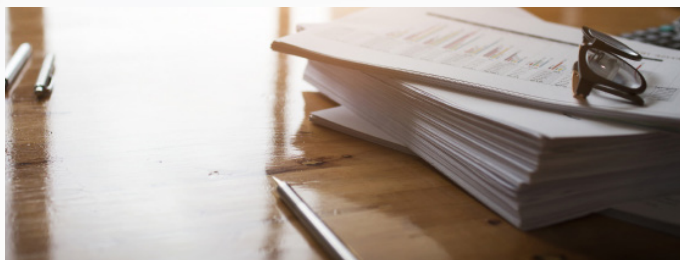
### 2020/2021 Highlights

- Moved services online and offered usual services and events through Out on Campus Discord server
- Celebrated Trans Day of Visibility with colleagues from University of Victoria and MacEwan University by establishing a Canadian Trans Campus Network Discord server





# CAMPAIGNS, RESEARCH, AND POLICY



The Policy, Research, Community Affairs Office (PRCA) Report includes Policy Research Community Affairs Coordinator's policy and research report and Campaigns And Mobilization Coordinator's(CAMC) advocacy activities.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- Supported 5 committees over the course of the year, and provided policy and accessibility support to 2 other committees (Surrey Campus Committee and Events Committee)
- Supported the Board (16 members) and Council (32-36 members) over the course of the year
  1. This includes orientation, manuals, strategic planning, ongoing support with drafting motions, and Robert's Rules and policy reviews, update and proposal
- Drafted 3 new policy documents and updated 5 others
- Updated and initiated over 10 individual policies and SOPs for council and staff
- Wrote over 15 briefing notes that provided a summary of research on topics requested by staff and the Board
- Planned, or assisted in planning, 7 different events, in addition to Board development sessions and committee meetings

# COMMUNICATIONS



The Communications team develops and implements engaging strategies that enhance members' understanding of the SFSS and the services and support offered to undergraduate students. Services to the Executive Council and SFSS Departments include communications planning, event planning, developing news releases, media monitoring, advertising, graphic design, website content management, multimedia services, social media management, video production, photography, and editorial services.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- Helped launch and promote SFU Food Hub, a program for students to receive weekly free groceries during the pandemic
- Supported many advocacy and campaigns including Burnaby Mountain Gondola, Students Against TMX and Our Decision SFU

- Assisted in the promotion of the SUB opening
- Created the how-to on clubs and student unions webpage to provide engaging guidelines for members

## EVENTS

The role of the SFSS Events Coordinator is to provide support and guidance to the Events Committee and SFSS Board of Directors in all planning, risk assessment, budget consideration and logistics for all events. The goal is to create large and small events throughout the year that benefit and engage members.

Last year hosting meetings and events in a world affected by COVID-19 has required to do major adjusting — especially on the part of venues. Replacing some of the in person events was a challenge, but the online events became an important part of the knowledge-sharing and connection-making mix. Some of the online events we planned included semesterly Clubs Days, Monthly Mental Health giveaways, Workshops like Financial literacy Workshop, Food Workshops, Dance and Fitness Workshops, Pet Therapy, Wilderness Awareness Workshop, Disability Awareness Workshop, Food Justice Workshop, Anti-Racism Workshop, Lantern Making Workshop, Mindfulness and Meditation workshop, Event collaboration with student groups and SFU Recreation, Online Activism Burnout Event and

many other events like Trivia nights, Bullet Journaling, Movie Nights, Tidy Tuesdays, Women of the Year Awards. We also provided food packages to the students in the SFU residents to utilize during the Christmas break because there are limited resources open on campus.



# 2020/2021 COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS



# 2020/2021 ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

## Academic Advocacy

### COVID-19 Advocacy

- Summer Student Survey
- [C-19 Coalition Town Hall](#)

### Joint Operations Group (SFSS, GSS, SFU)

- Monthly Meetings

### Compassionate Grading

- [Pass/Credit/No Credit](#)
- Withdrawal Extension

### Student Affordability Project Working Group

- Open Educational Resources
- Food Security
- Financial Predictability

### Student Technology Support

- Discounted hardware for SFU Students

### Scarborough Notation Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education

- In governance, research, teaching & learning, and community engagement

### SFU Gondola

- [Support and advocacy efforts](#)

## SFSS Bursary and Financial Aid

- \$150,000 distributed in Summer 2020
- \$400,000 earmarked for 2021-2022 disbursement
- \$60,000 to Fraser International College in Summer 2020
- \$10,000 Annual SFU Undergraduate Award

- \$20,000 annual WUSC x SFSS Undergraduate Scholarship

## Equity & Social Justice (Internal)

### SFU Advocacy

- Supported SFU Athletics "Clan" Name Change Campaign launched by Student Athletes
- Supported Let Us Speak Campaign led by FNSA
- New SFU Admin: VP People, Equity and Inclusion
- #StudentsDerseveSpace Campaign
- Community Safety
- [TMX Hazards](#)
- Review of Campus Safety and Decreased Policy Presence

### SFSS

- Added a new SFSS VP Equity & Sustainability
- Seats for equity groups on Council
- Established [Issues Policies](#) reflecting social, political, economic interests of SFSS

### Local

- Burnaby mountain Gondola

### Provincial

- BC Raced-Based Data Collection
- Submission to the BC Policy Act Review 2021
- Post-Secondary Funding Review
- Cap on International Student Tuition Hikes

### Federal

- CERB & CESB
- COVID-19 Just Recovery Brief to House of Commons
- Affordable tuition advocacy



- Won Post-Graduate Work Permit Extension with Migrant Students United
- Resisted Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project

## **Solidarity & Coalition Building**

### Solidarity

- Contract Workers at SFU
- Braided Warriors
- Research Assistants Unionization
- The Farmers' Protest in India
- SFSS in Solidarity Against Anti-Asian Racism
- Solidarity with Black Communities Against Systemic Injustice

### Coalition Building

- COVID-19 Coalition
- SFU Migrant Students Unioned
  1. SFSS, Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU), Graduate Student Society (GSS), International Student Advocates (ISA)

### Student Organizations

- SFU-affiliated groups with students and workers:
  1. Students Against TMX, TSSU, GSS, SFPIRG, Embark
- Don't Forget Students
- World University Services Canada
- Students for Consent Culture
- Clubs, Department and Faculty Student Unions, Constituency Groups Indigenous Communities - Indigenous Student Centre - First Nation Student Association

### Student Unions

- UVSS
- UBC AMS
- Concordia
- Capilano

- BC Federation of Students
- URSU
- BCITSA
- UBC Students' Union Okanagan
- UBC Graduate Student Society
- CFS National Black Caucus

### Black Communities

- SFU Black Caucus
- Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry
- African Students Association

### Migrant Students United

- Post-Graduate Work Permit campaign

### Senate

- Student Senate Caucus

## **Media Presence**

### SFSS News Releases:

- [Month in Reviews](#)

### The Peak:

- [Incoming SFSS President Osob Mohamed looks forward to a year of student activism and positive change](#)
- [The SFSS calls on SFU to re-implement pass/fail grading](#)

### CTV News Vancouver:

- Simon Fraser Student Society endorses Burnaby Mountain gondola proposal

### CBC News:

- [Student leaders cry out for support in federal budget, wary of long-term pandemic consequences](#)



# EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Events Committee focuses on the planning and execution of events on SFU Burnaby campus. The purpose of this committee is to provide engagement opportunities and build a relationship with the general membership.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- 28 collaborations with Clubs, SFU Health and Counselling, SFU Recreation
- 19 giveaways for Mental Health Mondays
- 56 total events
- Financial Literacy Workshops
- SFSS x SFU Peak Frequency IG Live Concert
- SFSS x TechBytes Adobe Illustrator Workshop
- SFSS x TechBytes Figma Workshop
- SFSS x SFU UPhoto Photography Workshops
- SFSS x SFU Health & Counselling
- SFSS x Esports x CAC Spellbound Game Nights
- SFSS x SFU Recreation Quick Bites Food Workshop
- Global Talent Night Collaboration
- Pet Yoga with SFU Recreation
- Cultural Week
- Plan Ethnobotany Webinar: Squamish and Coast Salish Perspectives
- Black History Month
- Hosting Inclusive Events Workshop with SFPIRG
- Online Activism Burnout Event
- Anti-Racism Workshop
- Disability Awareness Workshop with Creating Accessible Neighborhoods
- Women of the Year Awards
- Pad Thai Food Workshops
- Samosa Food Workshop
- Rasam Soup Food Workshop
- Easy Stir Fry Food Workshop
- Food Packages for Residence
- Baking Workshops
- SFSS Trivia Nights
- Horror Movie Night
- NHL Watch Party
- RAVE Streaming Party
- Bob Ross Paint Night
- Lantern-Making Workshop
- Stranger Things Murder Mystery
- Valentine days Origami
- Dance Week (Hip Hop and Afro Dance Workshops)
- Diwali Dance Workshop
- Mindfulness Meditation
- BollyX Fitness Workshop
- Women's Personal Safety and Self-Defence Workshop
- Time Management Workshop
- Goal Setting Bullet Journaling Workshop
- Bullet Journaling Workshop
- Tidy Tuesdays
- Pets Social Food Justice Webinar
- Holiday Giveaways
- Social Media Giveaways

# SURREY CAMPUS COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Surrey Campus Committee is to enhance the student experience for all students at the SFU Surrey campus. We are focused on creating more events, increasing student engagement and involvement in our community, and increasing the quality of life for students on the Surrey campus.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- Surrey Campus Instagram Bingo
- 2000s Music Throwback Trivia Night

# GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Governance Committee is to provide the Board of Directors with formal recommendations and reports aimed at strengthening its governance processes and capacity. These reports typically relate to the SFSS Constitution, Bylaws, policies, committee terms of reference, and governance processes.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- Recommended to the Board to establishment of a First Year Engagement Committee
- Recommended to the Board the establishment of a Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) Committee
- Completed a Governance and Administrative Restructuring, alongside the Executive Committee, to revamp the

management structure of the SFSS, and center student decision-making

- Completed a review of the SFSS By-Laws, by establishing a joint working group with the advisory Council
- Updated and Recommended to the Board changes to the SFSS Privacy Policies
- Updated and Recommended to the Board changes to the SFSS Elections & Referenda Policies
- Recommended to the Board the establishment of a Transition Steering Committee, after the SFSS By-Law amendments passed at the 2020 Annual General Meeting
- Recommended to the Board that two By-Law Amendment Referenda be held during the Spring 2021 semester:
  1. By-Law Housekeeping Amendments
  2. By-Law Reordering
- Recommended to the Board amendments to Board Policy R-9 to add various definitions and establish a consent agenda process
- Recommended to the Board amendments to the Board Policy SO-1 to add additional duties and responsibilities for Committee Chairs
- Reviewed and recommended changes to the Clubs Terms of Reference to the Board
- Reviewed and recommended changes to the Events Terms of Reference to the Board
- Recommended to the Board the establishment of various new SFSS Issues Policies

# UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The University and Academic Affairs Committee plans SFU-related advocacy and campaigns, including member-facing student information campaigns in tandem with the External and Community Affairs Committee. The committee also plans and executes student engagement and outreach initiatives.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- Recruited and retained Student At-Large Members of the University and Academic Affairs Committee
- Established a Working Group on Student Engagement and Emergency Response to carry out the Food HUB program at SFU in the face of the pandemic
- Established and maintained a Mandatory Anti Racism Education Working Group (M.A.R.E.)
- Recommended to the Board the addition of a tuition condemnation vote to SFU for the 2020 Annual General Meeting
- Hosted a COVID-19 Town Hall open to all students
- Advocated for a P/F grading scheme to recognize the hardships the pandemic was having on students' academic performance
- Advocated for the end to invigilation and proctoring software to be used during online exams
- Advocated heavily for the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project, by:
  1. Meeting with Burnaby City Mayor and

Councillors

2. Attending dialogues with members of the Burnaby community
  3. Engaging in an online campaign
- Engaged in various Open Educational Resources advocacy initiatives
  - Engaged in a research project on the need to eliminate sick notes to reduce barriers for students missing classes and/or exams
  - Established and maintained the Student Wellness Working Group to create a short term strategic plan to support students with mental wellness initiatives

# EXTERNAL & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The External and Committee Affairs Committee creates and establishes advocacy and lobby points that are student centered and brought forward to municipal, provincial and federal levels. The ECA Committee also advocates and created campaigns to raise awareness around issues that are directly impacting students. The committee also plans and executes initiatives that engage and involve students in various capacities.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- Budget Consultation Presentation
- Students Against TMX
- Canada Just Recovery
- UPass Advisory Committee (UAC)
- Tuition Fees and Operating grant Letter

- Post Graduate Work Permit Extension
- Food Hub
- Lobby Days 2021

#### *Federal Topics:*

- Eliminate interest on the federal portion of Canada Student Loans indefinitely
- Provide \$375 million in permanent funds for a Transit Congestion Relief Fund for Metro Vancouver
- Provide \$375 million in permanent funds for a Transit Congestion Relief Fund for Metro Vancouver
- Build back a better Canada post-pandemic by integrating the Six Principles of a Just Recovery
- Build back a better Canada post-pandemic by integrating the Six Principles of a Just Recovery
- Suspend the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and ensure the safety of the surrounding community
- Increase federal support for GAR program refugees' access to Canadian postsecondary education
- Allocate a portion of the \$55+ billion available through the National Housing
- Strategy towards building affordable student rental housing units
- To modify the National Food Policy to include the subsidization of healthy foods for youth, as proposed by Food Secure Canada

#### *Provincial Topics:*

- Operating Grants and Operating Funding Model for Post-Secondary Institutions
- International Post-Secondary Student MSP
- International Student Tuition Cap
- Funding for Post-Secondary Sexual Violence Prevention and Support
- Race-Based Data Collection
- Abolishment of provincial police forces and

redirection of funds

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

## ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Accessibility Committee is to make and report on the development of recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the needs of, and support available to students with disabilities, as well as the accessibility grant applications.

#### **2020/2021 Highlights**

- Accessibility Designated Assistant Hiring
- Disability Justice Issues Policy
- Student Union Building (SUB) Gender Neutral Washroom Consultation
- How to Book CART Captioning Guide
- How to Apply for the SFSS Accessibility Fund Guide
- Accessibility Fund Delegation of Authority
- Psychoeducational assessments

# BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND PEOPLE OF COLOUR COMMITTEE

The purpose of the BIPOC committee is to ensure and prioritize the voices of the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) community at Simon Fraser University within the framework of the Simon Fraser Student Society, and that the lived experience of racialized folks is always considered, recognized and acknowledged. The committee was vocal to the Board and to SFU that systemic barriers that prevent Black, Indigenous, and People Of Colour (BIPOC) from reaching their full potential within institutions are a direct result of the exclusion of racialized people from the creation and implementation of programs, policies, and practices.

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- Supported Athletics Name-Change Campaign
- Launched Our Decision SFU Campaign
- First Peoples Gathering House: Let Us Speak Campaign
- Submitted Anti-Racism Recommendations to SFU Administration
- Advocated for SFU Vice-President People, Equity & Inclusion (VP PEI)
- Provided Consultation for the Scarborough National Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education
- Increased Supports for BIPOC with SFU Health and Counselling

- Established the SFSS Anti-Racism Policy

[Full BIPOC Committee Exit Report](#)

# FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

## 2020/2021 Highlights

- Oversaw the annual audit process
- Developed and recommended to Board an investment policy implementation plan
- Recommended just over \$5,000,000 in various surplus funds to be moved into a fossil-free investment account
- Developed Board Reimbursement Guidelines
- Developed a committee annual plan
- Started a Participatory Pilot Project
- Recommended multiple staff Professional Development budget approvals
- Approved a Zoom Business Account through TechSoup
- Recommended a change to the club petty cash amounts from \$20/term to \$100/term
- Researched an Accessibility Bursary
- Researched Emergency COVID-19 Funding and recommended it to Council
- Developed a Council Remuneration Proposal to base stipends on a living wage of \$19.50, broken up over two years
- Recommended a 2021-2022 preliminary budget to Board



## HUMAN RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### 2020/2021 Highlights

- Developed the Board Organizer Job Description
- Developed the Student Advocate Job Description
- Approved hiring of more Administrative Assistant hirings
- Created the Black Student Support Centre Coordinator hiring committee
- Collective Agreement Bargaining Consultation and Development

## MEMBER SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### 2020/2021 Highlights

- Fixed many small issues within the Club Terms of Reference
- Recommended to Board a discussion on Greek Life Organizations
- Forwarded recommendations for club constitutions to the Board
- Held multiple discussions around club, student union, and travel funding

## FACULTY AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS

### 2020/2021 Highlights

- Recommended to the Board to approve the #StudentsDeserveSpace campaign

# SERVICES



## U-PASS

The U-Pass service is the most used SFSS service. The SFSS U-Pass BC Program is a student advocate program and provides unlimited, all zone access to public transit in Metro Vancouver.

The current U-Pass BC Agreement was finalized after contract negotiations with TransLink, post-secondary institutions, and other student associations in January 2020, extending U-Pass benefits until 2025. In agreement with TransLink, student associations, and other post-secondary institutions, SFU issued refunds of the mandatory U-Pass BC fees for April 2020 to students who did not need to use their U-Pass BC due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Refunds were issued to those students who did not use their pass for more than \$41 in stored value travel.

## HEALTH AND DENTAL

The SFSS Health and Dental Plan is designed to fill the gaps left by the provincial health care, and provide much needed health and wellness services to students. Services range from prescription drugs, vaccinations, physiotherapy, massage therapy, orthotics, and ambulatory services to vision care, travel insurance, dental care, and more.

## LEGAL CLINIC

Have a dilemma for which you need legal counsel? Need papers notarized? Our clinic provides those services free for graduate or undergraduate students at SFU. The clinic is open: Thursdays, usually bi-weekly from 1 – 4pm, with appointments typically 15 minutes each. But if time permits, we'll do our best to extend your appointment up to 30 minutes if needed. We are proceeding with legal clinic meetings by phone during the regular scheduled times. Please email the Student Centre ([studentcentre@sfss.ca](mailto:studentcentre@sfss.ca)) to book an appointment.

## FOOD BANK

A comprehensive study of the Food Bank Program and SFU undergraduate and FIC student food insecurity was undertaken in 2019/20. The study revealed that SFU undergraduate students are 3 times more likely to be food insecure than the average Canadian. You can read more about this study [here](#).