

simon fraser
student society

SFSS ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

2021-2022

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Message from the Author

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) is a not for profit organization incorporated under the BC Societies' Act, advocating for the well-being of undergraduate students at the Simon Fraser University (SFU). Our operations reside on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Šḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Se ̱ḻḻwitulh (Tsleil 'Waututh), ḵw̱iḵw̱ə̱ləm (Kwkwetlem) and ǵic̱əy̱ (Katzie) Nations.

As these lands had never been handed over to us, SFU, or the Canadian government, we are conscious that being on these lands is a privilege. The SFSS has and will continue to advocate for the rights of our Indigenous communities, as we work towards reconciliation.

This Annual Report, as per Council Policy 4.10 was meant to be prepared by the Outgoing VP Internal and Organizational Development; however, that was not the case. Regardless, I am happy to present the Annual Council Report for the 2021-22 Council year. As a member of the Society, who has not sat on Council for the 2021-22 year, I was much so looking in from the outside, as were many students. While I was a department-union president, the ongoings of the SFSS was still mysterious to me, so if that was the case for someone who worked within the system, I can only imagine what it was like for students who only wanted to attend events and to use SFSS services, like the Advocacy office or the Health and Dental Plan. This report is meant to account for major highlights for the Society for the last fiscal year. In the following report, you will find our highlights and key projects, the descriptions of the SFSS services, Council, and our committees that all work together, so we can bring you the best services we can muster.

Last year, the SFSS worked to build the foundation to the new model under which the SFSS is meant to operate. Throughout the report, you will notice that a large emphasis has been placed on creating an environment that centers equity, diversity and inclusion within the organization. We here at the SFSS believe that good work done locally, will positively impact people all around. Both Council and its committees worked on projects that advocated for the well-being of our membership and our communities, like the *Access for All* campaign, looked at policies and guidelines to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, and responded to Global crises. Organizationally, the last Council ratified the Collective Agreement that outlines the rights of our staff and the responsibilities of Employers, as well as the soft opening of the Student Union Building (SUB) after a seven-year wait. Our services, even in the face of COVID-19, and an uncertain return to campus, had pivoted and continued serving the membership, adapting when needed – for that, I am very thankful to our SFSS staff, and I am sure, the past Council is as well.

The SFSS is here to provide services to the membership, as shown throughout these past few years, where the world was quite literally – on fire – the SFSS remained and maintained its services. Even in the face of change and unprecedented events, the past Council kept the Society operational, and ultimately, that is all that matters.

Thank you, Council 2021-22.

Kind regards,

Judit Nagy (she/her)

VP Internal and Organizational Development (2022-23)

Letter from Council

Dear SFSS Membership,

The 2021-22 Council would like to start off by thanking you for your engagement, thoughts, input, and encouragement throughout a developing and stressful year. Our membership support means the world to us, and allows us to engage with our roles conscious of what our communities want to see us work on. We thank you for your continuous support, patience, and kindness.

This Annual Report accounts for the key highlights of, and the advocacy work of, the Society for the 2021-22 Council year. Council has centered making decisions for an equity point, and ensured that as Global Citizens, our actions positively impact our communities. Through this year, Council was inspired to bring radical change to the Society and to our presence on SFU's campuses through our advocacy work, engagement, and consultation process. We hope we achieved that.

We thank you for a fantastic, intense, and engaged year. We hope we made you proud.

Best Regards,

The Simon Fraser Student Society Council

(May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022)

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. Council is the final decision makers of the SFSS, and it rests its powers with the Executive Committee in-between Council meetings.

To find your representative for your program or constituency, see [here](#).

2021/22 Executive Committee



Gabe Liosis
President



Corbett Gildersleve
VP Internal and 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

2022/23 Executive Committee



Helen Sofia Pahou
President



Judit Nagy
VP Internal and Organizational
Development



Abhishek (Abhi) Parmar
VP Finance & Services



Nicole (Nikki) Kirigin
VP University &
Academic Affairs



Eshana Baran
VP External &
Community Affairs



Rea Chatterjee
VP Equity & Sustainability
(May 2022 - September 2022)



Arthur Lee
Acting VP Equity & Sustainability
(September 2022 - Present)



Vaibhav Arora
VP Events & Student Affairs

Council Highlights 2021/2022

The elected members of Council for the year of 2021-22 were the first Board of Directors under the new Governance Model, whereby the Society has gone from seventeen Directors to approximately forty-five. The 2021-22 Council year has highlighted the difficulties that arise with a new model, and offered opportunities for improvement. Council, as the legal Board of Directors, are the final decision-makers of the Society, overseeing multi-year and multi-thousand dollar expenses to funnel towards student initiatives. Council has been extremely active throughout the year, and major Society changes and projects were spearheaded by Council directly, in a centralized manner, rather than through committees. Here are a few projects that the SFSS Council has worked on, achieved, and advocated for from May 2021 to May 2022.

Highlights:

- SFSS Response to the Israeli Colonization of Palestine, by Science Undergraduate Society Councillor, Zaid Lari
- SFSS Response to the Genocide of the Uyghur Peoples by Science Undergraduate Society Councillor, Zaid Lari
- Access for All Campaign, by VP University and Academic Affairs, Serena Bains
- Indian Residential School Survivors and Commitments to Reconciliation, by VP External and Community Affairs, Matthew Provost
- Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Supports #CancelCanadaDay, by VP Events and Student Affairs, Jess Dela Cruz
- Issues Policy: Course Materials, by VP Internal and Organizational Development and VP University and Academic Affairs, Corbett Gildersleve and Serena Bains
- SUS & SASS Common Room Spaces in the Student Union Building, by Science Undergraduate Society Councillor and Society of Arts and Social Sciences, Zaid Lari and Akum Sidhu
- Collective Agreement for SFSS Staff Ratification – SFSS Executives
- SFSS in support of Afghan Students at risk at SFU, by Communications Councillor Ashran Bharosha
- SFSS Executive Officer Co-Op Memorandum of Understanding, by VP Internal and Organizational Development, Corbett Gildersleve
- COVID-19 In-Person Event Guidelines, by VP Internal & Organizational Development, Corbett Gildersleve
- BC Flood Support, by VP External VP External and Community Affairs, Matthew Provost, & VP Events and Student Affairs, Jess Dela Cruz
- Council Half Hours for Final Exam Periods, VP Internal & Organizational Development Corbett Gildersleve
- Recommendation From The Executive Committee To Council On Closure Of Student Union Building As A Response To The Covid-19 Case Surge, by SFSS Executive Committee
- Adoption of SO-22, Committee of Councillor Breaches of Confidence, by VP Internal and Organizational Development, Corbett Gildersleve
- Censures of Zaid Lari, Graham Rich, and Shariq Ashan, by SFSS Council. The impeachment of Zaid Lari, and recommended impeachment for Shariq Ashan for the 2022-23 Council Year.
- Palestinian Issues Policy, by VP Equity and Sustainability, Marie Haddad
- SFSS-Peak Lease approval, by VP Internal and Organizational Development, Corbett Gildersleve
- SFU 350 Mural Invoice Payment, by VP Internal and Organizational Development, Corbett Gildersleve
- IP-11: Accessible and Equitable Events, by VP University and Academic Affairs, Serena Bains

Committees Highlights 2021/2022

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee holds the power of Council between Council meetings. They coordinate and manage day-to-day activities of the Society, and report all relevant matters to Council. The Executive Committee has met thirty-one times in the 2021-22 Council year.

Highlights:

- COVID-19 Mask Mandate Survey
- Mask Mandate in SUB
- Converting bookable spaces to immunocompromised spaces
- Recommendation for SUB closure
- Amendment to HRP terms of reference
 - Remove non-executive councillors from hiring committees
 - Only Executives may amend HRP terms of reference which is inconsistent with the Policy Manual
- Gondola Town Hall Budget Approval
- SOCA, DNA, and FNMISA support levy added to referenda
- Accessible Course Practices Campaign Open Letter Endorsement
- Supporting National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
- Staff Hiring Committees
- MMIWG2S Statement of Support

HR and Personnel Subcommittee

The HR and Personnel Subcommittee (HRP) has delegated power from the Executive Committee to amend, approve job descriptions, oversee issues with grievances, and other staff- related issues. The committee has met officially three times in the 2021-22 Council year.

Highlights:

- Building Coordinator Job Description
- Administrative Coordinator Job Description
- Accessibility Coordinator Job Description

Governance Committee

Governance Committee serves as the oversight for the Society's constitution, bylaws, and policies. It may propose amendments, and new policies and review bylaws, to ensure organizational development for the Society. The committee has met four times in the 2021-22 Council year.

Highlights:

- Half Hour Policy – this policy amendment means that both non-executive and executive councillors are expected to work half their hours for the months of April, August, and December, but receive full pay

Committees Highlights 2021/2022

Finance and Administrative Services Committee

The Finance committee oversees the financial health of the Simon Fraser Student Society. The committee coordinates the preparation of the annual operating budget and the annual capital budget of the SFSS, pending Council approval. It oversees funds, investments, and other financial liabilities. The committee further oversees the process of remuneration and the annual audit. This committee has not met in the 2021-22 Council year.

University and Academic Affairs Committee

This committee is responsible for strategic campaigns regarding member-related issues towards the university. This committee advocates for the academic well-being of SFU undergraduate students. It further monitors and reviews the progress of SFU Senate, Board of Governors, and Senate Committees, to better advocate for SFU students. This committee has met twice in the 2021-22 Council year.

Highlights:

- Accessible Course Practices Campaign

External and Community Affairs Committee

This committee is tasked to coordinate and oversee advocacy projects of the SFSS towards the municipal, provincial, and federal government. This committee may be involved in matters like lobbying, spreading awareness, get out the vote campaigns, and working on advocacy projects. This committee has met three times in the 2021-22 council year.

Highlights:

- Federal Advocacy Report 2021
- Provincial Lobbying Report 2021
- Anti-TMX Day of Action

Equity and Sustainability Committee

The Equity and Sustainability committee centers students who belong to historically excluded and marginalized groups at SFU. The purpose of the committee is to work towards dismantling systematic oppression ranging from classism, ableism, racism, colonialism, mysogony, and varying types of oppression. This committee has met three times in the 2021-22 Council year.

Committees Highlights 2021/2022

Black Indigenous People of Colour Committee

The purpose of the BIPOC committee is to prioritize the voices of the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) community at Simon Fraser University. This committee acknowledges the lived experiences of racialized students and how it relates to institutional harm, and advocates for equity at SFU with the framework of the Simon Fraser Student Society. The committee highlights and educates students on issues that impact marginalized, and racialized, students on campus, and guides SFSS advocacy initiatives. This committee met seven times, but does not have public minutes from the 2021-22 Council year.

Accessibility Committee

The Accessibility Committee is tasked with ensuring there is engagement within the SFSS with members of the community with disabilities. The committee also oversees policy change regarding accessibility and monitors the use of the Accessibility Fund. This committee has met seven times in the 2021-22 Council year.

Highlights:

- Transformative Justice Summer Series
- SUB Accessibility Audit Report
- Advocacy for STEP Forward students

Events and Student Affairs Committee

The events committee is the heart of SFSS operations, overseeing and developing events on behalf of Council for the membership. The committee assists student unions, clubs, and constituency groups in planning events as well. This committee has met three times in the 2021- 22 council year.

Highlights:

- Student Union Soft Opening
- Halloween photo booth

Surrey Campus Committee

The Surrey Campus Committee is tasked with advocating for the needs of students who attend classes on the SFU Surrey Campus. Their objective is to bring engagements to the campus, and include Surrey students as much as possible. This committee is tasked with advising Council with relevant strategies to improve the experience and the SFSS presence at the SFU Surrey campus. This committee has not met in the 2021-22 Council year.

Committees Highlights 2021/2022

Vancouver Campus Committee

Vancouver Campus Committee, much like the Surrey Campus Committee, is tasked with bringing engagement and creating opportunities to students who attend classes on the SFU Vancouver campus. This committee is meant to prioritize the needs of students who study on Vancouver campus, advise Council on issues that concerns students who study in Vancouver, and recommend appropriate action. This committee has not met in the 2021-22 council year.

First Year Engagement Committee

This committee is tasked with coordinating first year advocacy events, activities, and projects. This committee's recruitment also prioritizes first year students to ensure that first year voices are heard. The committee met four times in the 2021-22 Council year. The committee's annual plan entailed planning for workshops for first years at a monthly basis that targeted their needs and interests.

Highlights:

- Student Needs Survey distribution

Member Services Advisory Committee

This committee has formally met once, and has met informally twice. This committee is tasked with the coordination of society member services like clubs, student unions, and the food bank. This committee, in accordance with its terms of reference, is meant to review anonymized complaints and meet at least once a month. There are no highlights from the committee to report.

Oversight Committee on Executive Officers

This committee was created with the adoption of the New Council Policies which took effect on May 1st, 2021, and had met 11 times in the 2021-2022 Council Year. This committee is primarily charged with overseeing the conduct of Executive Officers. It also has the ability to, where needed, investigate the conduct of Executive Officers and, at the conclusion of an investigation, potentially recommend disciplinary action to Council. Lastly, the committee itself also has the ability to reduce the stipend of Executive Officers, when deemed necessary after an investigation. No investigations occurred for the 2021-22 Council year.

Committees Highlights 2021/2022

Oversight Committee on Society Space

This committee was created in Fall 2021, and has met twice until the end of the 2022 fiscal year. The committee is in charge of overseeing all Society spaces, as well as, overseeing the health of the Space Expansion Fund. This fund may be used for Society space projects ranging from renovations to furnishings.

Highlights:

- Approval of furnishing proposal for Out On Campus and Women's Center

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee oversees the appointment of At-Large Members to council committees. At-large members are students who are members in good standing with the Society, but do not serve on Council. Through the 2021-22 Council year, Nominating Committee has met three times to appoint At-large members for the Events and Student Affairs Committee, Accessibility Committee, First Year Engagement Committee, and for BIPOC. If you were one of those students who served on these committees, thank you!

Members' Meeting Planning Committee

The committee is charged with determining the optimal time for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held, and to oversee the potential agenda items, pending Council approval. The committee has met five times in the 2021-22 Council year.

Faculty Caucus

The Faculty Caucus encompasses all Councillors who belong to a certain faculty. It is meant to encourage inter-program collaboration and joint initiatives. The Faculty Caucus was not active for the 2021/22 Council year. However, with the hard work of faculty and department student unions, leading a joint initiative, the Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS) and the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) successfully lobby for common room space in the Student Union Building (SUB). These rooms were handed over in December 2021, and were furnished mid-Spring 2021.

Highlights:

- SASS Common Room
- SUS Common Room

Committees Highlights 2021/2022

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee was created through the work of the Outreach Working Group. The committee's terms of reference were approved on March 16, 2022. The committee has not been elected, and therefore, was not active.

Committee on Councillor Breaches of Confidence

This committee was created in March 2022, with the suspension of the Policy Manual's requirement to give a two-week notice to the membership. The committee has the power to investigate in-camera breaches. In-camera items may be: legal or litigatory information, HR and staff-related, contract negotiations, or privacy and personal information matters. The purpose of the committee was to investigate, and conclude, who led to the leaking of the SUB Default letters.

Highlights:

- Impeachment and Censure of Councillors associated with the leaking of confidential information
- The outcome led to the impeachment of one councillor, censure of three, and recommended impeachment of one

SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

Student Centre

Over the past year, the Student Centre has continued to adapt to the changes brought upon us as we transitioned from the limitations placed upon us with COVID-19 to what is deemed as Post-COVID. The demand for the members wanting to return to in-person events was marked by the steady increase in event and funding requests. The volume of requests for space and funding from student clubs has steadily increased and is nearing the volumes that were seen pre-pandemic.

During this time, we continued updating procedures and policies to adapt to the constant stream of changes due to numerous external factors. We continue to work with other departments and community partners to ensure that service delivery to the membership is provided at a high standard.

2021/2022 Highlights

- Established the Student Centre in the SUB and transitioned back to in-person services and event support.
- Hired new team of front line staff to provide in-person services again.
- Hired designated full-time staff to assist with club and student union events.
- Club Executive Onboarding workshops launched in Summer 2022 to provide training support for club executives.
- Developed additional online resources for club executives, such as Club Onboarding Handbook, Events 101 page, and expanded Clubs 101 page on the SFSS website.
- Reviewed and approved 14+ new clubs.
- Processed and approved over 450 grants, totalling \$150,000 in grant funding.
- Revised various policies and guidelines based on membership feedback.

Student Advocacy Office

The Student Advocate provides resources and options, in a confidential manner, for students who need help. This may include help with navigating university policies and procedures, advice on how to deal with tricky situations, help you plan an academic or conduct appeal, serve as a support person in difficult situations, provide referrals to specialized support services, or help get a new project off the ground. The goals are to improve undergraduates' overall university experience and work to make SFU a safer and more respectful space for all students, faculty, and staff.

2021/2022 Highlights

- Fully outfitted the Student Advocate Office and web spaces
- Prepared Policy and Procedure Guides for the most common appeal processes and conflict points students encounter at SFU
- Directly assisted with 77 significant cases including appeals to SCODA, UBSD, Residence and Housing, and CAL, as well as dealing directly with Instructors and TAs
- Assisted with approximately 40 minor cases
- Answered countless email queries from students about University processes, policies, and procedures
- Conducted 2 mediations for SFSS Clubs
- Provided direct and ongoing support to SFSS Counselors, Clubs, Constituency Groups, Collectives, and Departments

SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

- Assisted in Out on Campus and Women's Centre Programming
- Advocated for the creation of permanent facilities for lactating students, staff, and faculty on all campuses. These are expected to start coming to fruition in the coming year
- Developed a detailed proposal for expanding the existing SFU/FIC Campus Community Shuttle service with an eye toward improving accessibility and mobility for disabled people, wheelchair users, and stroller users
- Represented the SFSS Staff members as the Unit 5 Representative for CUPE Local 3338

Student Union Building

Construction of the Student Union Building (SUB) began in 2016 and concluded in 2021. At approximately 1,113,000 square feet, the \$55 million SUB provides space for social gathering, studying, lounging, activities, celebrating, and enhancing the student experience at SFU. The capital project continued throughout the year and although met with challenges due to Covid-19 and an extremely busy construction market, it remained on track.

2021/2022 Highlights

- The society moved its operation from MBC into the SUB
- Deficiency work associated with the capital project was completed
- The SUB received a provisional occupancy permit from the city of Burnaby
- The building opened to students and wider community members
- The capital project remained on budget
- A/V upgrades were carried out in two of the meeting rooms to provide access to video conferencing facilities to students free of charge
- Consultation and planning took place for a multi-faith prayer space in the SUB
- Study rooms opened up for free student bookings
- We hosted our first of many events in the ballroom

SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

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 another semi - pandemic year the department has focused on the following areas:

2021/2022 Highlights

1. Updating resources according to the current PHO orders
2. Participated in both virtual and in-person Clubs Days
3. Subsidized online workshops in lieu of the usual in-person offerings as well as the first post-lockdown in-person FoodSafe workshop in the SUB
4. Assisted several FSUs in making their new SUB spaces feel like home
5. As usual, assisted Student Unions and Groups organizing their Elections, Virtual and in-person Events and Projects

Surrey Office

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.

2021/2022 Highlights

- Worked with the MECS Surrey team to book events for SFSS clubs, student unions and other groups
- Collaborated with student engagement to organize events on Surrey campus including seasonal photobooth, winter wonderlounge, spring festival, Surrey summerfest, Surrey movie nights and more
- Hosted clubs days for student groups
- Breakfast with the SFSS: an event to welcome students back to Surrey campus
- Supported SFU Surrey games lounge with ping pong tables and PS4
- New furniture in the SFSS lounge to create more space and improve accessibility

SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

Women's Centre

The Women's Centre, located on SFU's second floor of the Student Union Building. The Centre hosts a variety of events and workshops, from art-based activities like their popular tie-dye night, to social justice interests such as July's Bans off Our Bodies solidarity event and fundraiser. The Women's Centre helps students to meet others with similar values and learn about feminism, LGBTQIA2S+ issues, consent culture and safe sex, as well as professional and personal skills and more. The Centre continues to provide free safe sex supplies (external condoms, internal condoms, lube, pregnancy tests, gift cards for plan b), menstrual supplies (pads, tampons, diva cups, reusable pads) for free for all undergraduate, FIC, graduate and postgraduate students for all SFU students across all campuses. Women Centre provides crisis intervention and connects students with appropriate support depending on their needs.

The Women's Centre Collective, a governing group of student volunteers, oversees the Centre's policies and assesses the needs and wants of the student body. With a focus on pro-feminist, sex-positive, trans and intersex inclusive, pro-choice and anti-racist values, the Centre provides education, resources and fosters a sense of community on campus. As the team continues to build out their programming, they are slowly expanding the Women's Centre's offerings to Vancouver and Surrey and with the goal of creating a space and establishing a student collective on each of these campuses. We hope to empower student involvement, and we really want to enable student autonomy and power.

2021/2022 Highlights

- Spring & Fall Service Fair
- Spring & Fall Clubs Day
- Bans Off Our Bodies Rally & Fundraiser (60+ attendees)
- Fundraised \$200.00 for Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
- Fundraised \$361.00 for Rainbow Refugee
- Fundraised \$360.00 for Clinic 554 located in New Brunswick
- Consistent weekly programming for Summer and Fall semesters



SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

Out on Campus

Out on Campus located on the second floor of the Student Union Building and acts as the LGBTQIA2S+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Aromantic, 2-Spirit and more) resource centre for SFU. We are open to all queer and trans undergraduate, graduate and FIC students and allies. Our aim is to provide a welcoming, nonjudgmental, and safe space to express your gender and sexual identity, make connections with likeminded people, and to comfortably use all of the resources and supports we offer. These are all free and include:

- Various snacks & drinks in the lounge
- Safer sex & menstrual supplies
- LGBTQIA2S+ focused library (feat. books, DVDs and stimtoys)
- Volunteer opportunities (casual and the student Collective)
- Guidance for on/off campus support through referrals (crisis or noncrisis) and other resources
- Regular programming (social + educational)
- Many supplies including, but not limited to, arts & crafts, knitting & crochet, board games, for use anytime
- A very active Discord server that features lots of information & peer led discussions

2021/2022 Highlights

- Collaborated with the Events Committee, along with other SFSS and affiliated groups to compile 300 custom care kits to be handed out to students on a rolling basis
- Attended Services Fair & Clubs Day in the Spring, Summer and Fall terms
- Drafted a furnishing proposal to access funds from the SFSS Space Expansion Fund, which went to Council and was approved. As a result we have been able to purchase new furniture and technology, which has in turn helped expand the types of events and support offered (food, comfort, studying, social, and more)



SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

Black Student Support Centre

SOCA Black Student Support Centre is devoted to creating a safe space for students of Black, African and Caribbean descent and allies on campus. SOCA partners with a number of organizations to develop programming and events which promote awareness and expose the campus community to issues significant to the African and Caribbean Diasporic communities at SFU. With Organizational Values of Community-Building, Inclusivity, Representation, and Social Justice, we do a myriad of activities such as events, advocacy, services and community and social gatherings. Find more about us at www.sfusoca.ca.

SOCA Black Student Support Center programming and support

- Cultural Programming for Black Students
- Advocacy: SFU Health & Counseling Services for Black Student Wellness Plan, SFU Black Student Office Steering committee & SFU Personal Safety Steering Committee
- Partnership/Solidarity work with Constituency Groups & SFU Departments: SFU Black Caucus, Residence and Housing, SFU Student Learning Commons, SFU Communications,, 5s working group, SFSS, GSS
- Administrative Support to SOCA specifically, event coordination, newsletter design, social media management, general meetings

2021/2022 Highlights

Virtual Events

- Catch Ah Vybz Icebreaker Social
- Blackout Eid 2021 (SFU Edition)
- Movie Night: Seriously Single
- Black Love: SOCA Community Conversation
- End of Summer Games Night
- Panel Discussion: Critical Intersections of Blackness
- Black History Month: Kickoff and ceremony, movie nights, trivia and Budgeting Workshop

In Person Events

- Ice Cream & Coffee Black Grad Social
- FNMISA x SOCA Hallowed Eves at Playland
- First and Second Year Social
- Movie Night: The Harder They Fall
- Community Conversation: Imperialism & Selective Empathy (Hybrid)
- Black History Month - Men's Basketball Game-Day Speech
- Weekly Tuesday Hangouts

Advocacy and Consultations

- SFSS referendum campaign - \$65,000 levies for each SOCA and DNA, and increase to \$100,000+ levy for FNMISA
- SFU to hire at least 15 Black faculty across disciplines
- SFU Black Student Office
- SFU Health and Counseling (H&C) individual and group counseling with a Black counselor
- Campus safety: Campus and No Cops on Campus (coalition) and the SFU Steering Committee Personal Safety

SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

Organizational Development

- 20 Bi-weekly General Meetings
- Opened SOCA BSSC space
- Ordered furniture for SOCA BSSC
- Strengthened transitions
- Drafted Memoranda of Understanding with African Students Association
- Completed first year with SOCA BSSC staff support



SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

Policy, Research and Community Affairs Office

The Policy, Research, Community Affairs Office (PRCA) Report includes Policy Research Community Affairs Coordinator and Research Assistant 's policy and research report and Campaigns And Mobilization Coordinator's (CAMC) advocacy activities. The Policy, Research and Community Affairs Coordinator (PRCA) coordinates necessary research on behalf of the Society in support of Society campaigns and initiatives as well as interpreting, maintaining and developing Society and other policies and the Campaign and Mobilization Coordinator undertakes campaigns aimed at advancing the wellbeing of students and fulfilling our corporate social responsibility in line with our shared values.



Summary

- Updated SFSS policies
- Revised and helped initiate old and new Standard of Operations Procedure (SOP)
- Planned and run Spring 2022 elections and Fall 2022 byelections
- Supported 3 committees with policy and operational advice
- In collaboration with SFU and other community partners, we successfully organized a donation and toy drive to help support BC flood victims
- Donated \$10,000 to meet the urgent needs of communities impacted by the floods last fall
- Successfully lobbied the Burnaby City Councilors through letters to get their final approval and funds allocated for the construction of the Burnaby Mountain Gondola Project
- Collaborated with Steps-Forward to lobby SFU to extend transit pass to auditing students
- Collaborated with TSSU and SFUFA to get the Access for All campaign initiated and running



2021/2022 Highlights

- Updated over 20 individual policies and SOPs for both Council and staff
- Completed over 10 briefing notes with the Research Assistant that provided a summary of research on topics requested by staff and the Executive Committee.
- Embarked on BC donation drive,
- Successfully executed Toy drive for kids affected by BC floods
- Donated to the First Nation Emergency Services Society



SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

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Communications

The Communications team provides communications services to enhance members' understanding of the SFSS and the services offered to undergraduate students. To keep membership informed, connected and engaged, the team provides communication support to the SFSS Executive committee and SFSS departments including graphic design, communication strategy advice, content creation, editing, planning and dissemination. SFSS Communications are responsible for the SFSS website, social media and newsletter and provide other services such as media relationship management, information inquiries coordination, survey development, document editing and mass emails to membership.

2020/2021 Highlights

Between April 2021 and April 2022, SFSS Communications responded to hundreds of support requests including 431 work orders received through JotForm only.

Some of the main events and campaigns the team supported during this period included:

- SFSS Clubs Days, Annual General Meeting (AGM), Executive Committee Elections and Committees hiring
- International and National Days and Commemorations (National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Black History Month, International Women's Day)
- Seasonal holidays events including SFSS Christmas Food Care Packages and Christmas Card Making;
- Advocacy campaigns such as Accessible Course practices (ACP) and BC Tuition Freeze
- Community and humanitarian actions including the Donations and Toy Drive campaigns for BC Flood Victims as well as SFU Community Fridge Launch at the SUB
- Transparency and outreach digital campaigns such as SFSS Month In Review and Meet Your Students Leaders

The team also worked on reorganizing and updating the SFSS website content and the communications Coordinator provided communications training to incoming executive officers as part of their operational training.

SFSS Service Highlights 2021/2022

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.

2021/2022 Highlights

- Clubs Days (semesterly)
- Mental Health giveaways (monthly)
- Dance and Fitness Workshops
- Disability Awareness Workshop
- Collaborated with student groups alumni to bring out events such as We Were Here We Were Queer X SFSS Zine Launch and Poetry Open Mic with SFU Alumni, Online Activism Burnout Event and many more
- Gave out free masks and sanitizers
- 400 Christmas Care Packages for students on the residents during Christmas to New Year Halloween event
- Indigenous Day Celebration
- SUB Soft Opening
- Valentines Day
- Career Building Workshop

Other SFSS 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 UPass 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

The SFSS Legal Clinic provides free legal counsel and notarization for SFU graduate and undergraduate students. The clinic runs each semester bi-weekly, on Thursdays from 1:00- 4:00pm and can be accessed by appointment only; the length of each appointment is 15 minutes. Appointments can be requested via the Legal Clinic form on the SFSS website, and they may be conducted in-person or by phone call.

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.

The SFSS provides \$75 worth of food certificates once per semester, intended for undergraduate students in a state of need. This student-run service is funded primarily by donations and student fees. The certificates are redeemable at Nesters Market Burnaby, Nesters Market Woodwards, or Surrey Central T&T. The Food Certificates must be used towards the purchase of food items only. Questions? Contact studentcentre@sfss.ca.