

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

# Elections and Referenda Report

*General Election - 2023*

Simon Fraser Student Society

---

**simon fraser**  
**student society**

**Commissioners:**

Noor Eeman

Nadia Ahmed

Shayan Ahmed Bombal

Tanishvir Singh

**Chief Commissioner:**

Alan Wong

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Candidates</b>	<b>5</b>
President	5
Vice-President Internal and Organisational Development	5
Vice-President Finance and Services	5
Vice-President University and Academic Affairs	5
Vice-President External and Community affairs	6
Vice-President Equity and Sustainability	6
Vice-President Events and Student Affairs	6
<b>Referendum Questions</b>	<b>7</b>
SFSS HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN FEE INCREASE	7
GRAMMAR, TYPOGRAPHICAL, AND REFERENCE CORRECTIONS	7
BY-LAW UPDATE: CLARIFICATIONS, SAFEGUARDS, AND DEMOCRATISATION	8
BY-LAW 6: COUNCIL E-VOTING-CHANGES	8
<b>Complaints</b>	<b>9</b>
Complaint 1 – Candidates acting not in accordance with SFSS By-Laws, Values, Policies	9
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>10</b>
Recommendation 1 – Changing how nomination packages are submitted	10
Recommendation 2 – Adding more social media and growing IEC presence	10
<b>Final Thoughts</b>	<b>11</b>

## TIMELINE

<i>Electoral Period</i>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
<i>Notice of Election Period</i>	January 9, 2023	January 15, 2023
<i>Nomination Period</i>	January 16, 2023	January 29, 2023
<i>Campaign Period</i>	January 31, 2023	February 13, 2023
<i>Voting Period</i>	February 14, 2023	February 16, 2023
<i>Post-Election Period</i>	February 17, 2023	March 10, 2023

## CANDIDATES

### PRESIDENT

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(‘Yes’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(‘No’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Liam Feng</i>	430	255	X

### VICE-PRESIDENT INTERNAL AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(‘Yes’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(‘No’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Leonarda Ognjenovic</i>	430	203	X

### VICE-PRESIDENT FINANCE AND SERVICES

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(‘Yes’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(‘No’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Jadvinder Bolina</i>	431	200	X

### VICE-PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(‘Yes’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(‘No’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Thomas Lueth</i>	354	N/A	X
<i>Naypreet Singh Sidhu</i>	246	N/A	

VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(‘Yes’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(‘No’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Nancy Brar</i>	466	162	X

VICE-PRESIDENT EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(‘Yes’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(‘No’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Priyanka Kaur Dhesa</i>	394	N/A	X
<i>Ashley Flett</i>	267	N/A	

VICE-PRESIDENT EVENTS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

<i>Candidate Name</i>	<i>Votes in Favour</i> <i>(‘Yes’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Votes Against</i> <i>(‘No’ votes if uncontested)</i>	<i>Elected</i>
<i>Ayooluma Adigun</i>	435	171	X

## REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

### QUESTION 1: SFSS HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN FEE INCREASE

Question	Are you in favor to raise the SFSS Health & Dental Plan Fees by \$31.92 for the policy year starting September 1, 2023 and authorize SFSS Council to adjust the Plan Fee by up to 5% annually (only when needed) starting September 2024, to account for inflationary impacts on Health & Dental services? Yes or No.
Votes in Favour	307
Votes Against	498
Threshold for Passing	Majority of the votes cast
Results <i>Pass/Fail</i>	<b>FAIL – failed to meet quorum</b>

### QUESTION 2: GRAMMAR, TYPOGRAPHICAL, AND REFERENCE CORRECTIONS

Question	<p>Minor typographical errors, grammar errors, and errors in by-law referencing have been found after a thorough review of the By-Laws.</p> <p>Many of these changes have to do with correcting outdated names within the policy, to make sure that our By-Laws reflect our current version of the Society. Other changes have to do with grammatical errors to make sure that the Policy makes sense to the reader. Do you support amending various section of the following By-Law: 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18</p>
Votes in Favour	526
Votes Against	180
Threshold for Passing	Two-thirds majority
Results <i>Pass/Fail</i>	<b>FAIL – failed to meet quorum</b>

**QUESTION 3: BY-LAW UPDATE: CLARIFICATIONS, SAFEGUARDS, AND DEMOCRATISATION**

Question	<p>Do you support the following By-Law Amendments?</p> <p>Amend By-Law 4(9), 13(3), 15(1), 22(1).</p> <p>Amend By-Law 2(6) to clarify council votes needed to recognize Associate Members of the society.</p> <p>Amend By-Law 6(24) by Adding a new Subsection on Alternates.</p> <p>Amend By-Law 13 to allow for more than one Chief Commissioner, clarify the composition of the Independent Electoral Commission and to provide a clear timeline for the appointment of Electoral Commission.</p> <p>Amend By-Law 13 by Adding a new subsection that allow for flexibility and regulation of the composition of the IEC and that limits IEC from campaigning for candidates or Candidates' slates.</p>
Votes in Favour	508
Votes Against	180
Threshold for Passing	Two-Thirds majority
Results <i>Pass/Fail</i>	<b>FAIL – failed to meet quorum</b>

**QUESTION 4: BY-LAW 6: COUNCIL E-VOTING-CHANGES**

Question	<p>Do you support amending the SFSS Bylaws 6 by Adding new sections and subsections to By-Law 6 that will allow e voting in council meetings.</p>
Votes in Favour	509
Votes Against	174
Threshold for Passing	Two-thirds majority
Results <i>Pass/Fail</i>	<b>FAIL – failed to meet quorum</b>



## COMPLAINTS

### COMPLAINT 1 – Candidates acting not in accordance with SFSS By-Laws, Values, Policies

Electoral Regulation	CP-3, CP-4
Description	A candidate was found to be campaigning using unapproved platforms, and not acting in accordance with SFSS values.
Material Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Screenshots and video evidence</li> </ul>
Finding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Founded <input type="checkbox"/> Not founded
Infraction Stage	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Stage 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stage 3
Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> Censure (written statement to candidate in question) <input type="checkbox"/> Fine (reduction of campaign expense reimbursement allocation by half) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disqualification
Rationale	After giving multiple opportunities for the candidate to correct the various infractions as detailed in our conversations, we had no choice but to disqualify after no changes were made.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### RECOMMENDATION 1 – Changing how nomination packages are submitted

Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nomination packages are currently submitted by email, which can get lost and is not as traceable.</li> </ul>
Recommendation	<p>We recommend that the next election cycle we should test other software solutions to ensure that nomination packages are more easily traceable and can be processed in a more efficient manner.</p>

### RECOMMENDATION 2 – Adding more social media and growing IEC presence

Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IEC is still considered more of a mystery department in the SFSS.</li> </ul>
Recommendation	<p>We experimented with Instagram this election cycle and doing more tabling. However, in the future we would like to grow IEC presence by hosting more information sessions and a cycle of social media content, so our members understand us better.</p>

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

Quickly transitioning into the role of Chief Commissioner after Farhan (Former Chief Commissioner) has presented some difficulties, but my past experience as an Elections Commissioner has been crucial in conducting a seamless and prosperous election despite the obstacles. As a team, we faced challenges such as managing uncommitted candidates and finding actionable evidence when complaints were filed to ensure fairness in the election process. To address these issues, the IEC recommends building a stronger connection with candidates, staff, and the student society population to increase support for future elections. It is important to emphasize that the election is not a joke and can have a significant impact. Overall, I am proud of our team and the hurdles we overcame, and I wish the incoming commissioners the best of luck.

Alan Wong

IEC Chief Commissioner

March 6th 2023