

simon fraser
student society

SFSS ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

2022-2023

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Message from the President

Dear Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Members,

Thank you for being a member of the SFSS. It's no exaggeration to say that as undergraduate students, you form the very heart and soul of SFSS's mission.

With your dedication and ongoing support for improving the student experience on campus, we have been able to make tremendous strides in transitioning our organization into a leader of student societies across the nation. The decisions taken by our Council have been instrumental in propelling SFSS forward.

The upcoming year will undoubtedly present its share of challenges, but I maintain unwavering confidence in our collective ability that we will be able to overcome them. The SFSS plays a unique role on campus where it is able to have a voice and influence senior university administration, government officials and other authoritative figures when making decisions that impact the student journey.

In conclusion, we want to express our deep gratitude for entrusting us with the privilege to represent and serve you. As per our mandate, we want to help you make the most of your time here by working together and identifying ways we can enrich your campus experience.

Thank you.

SFSS President
Liam Feng

Letter from Council

Dear SFSS Membership,

We, the 2022-2023 Council, want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your unwavering engagement, valuable insights, input, and encouragement throughout a year filled with challenges and growth. Your support means the world to us, as it keeps us connected with the aspirations and priorities of our communities.

This Annual Report serves as a testament to the pivotal moments and advocacy efforts of the Society during the 2022-2023 Council year. We have always prioritized equity in our decision-making and strived to be responsible leaders, ensuring that our actions positively impact you, the members we serve.

Your unwavering dedication has made this year a profoundly engaging one. We aim to have made you proud of the work we've accomplished and the changes we've initiated.

Sincerely,

The 2022-2023 Simon Fraser Student Society Council

Introduction

About the Simon Fraser Student Society

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 xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Škwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Se ɬílwitulh (Tsleil 'Waututh), kʷikwə́ləm (Kwikwetlem) and qícəy̓(Katzie) Nations.

The Simon Fraser Student Society is a student-led organization that represents and advocates for the interests of 26,000+ 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.

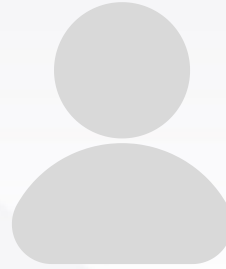
The SFSS is governed by a student-elected Council who act as the Board of Directors. This Council is composed of elected executive officers, constituency group, student union, and affiliated student group representatives. Elections occur throughout the spring term each year. Council is the final decision maker of the SFSS, and it rests its powers with the Executive Committee in-between Council meetings.

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

2022/23 Executive Committee



Helen Sofia Pahou
President



VP Internal and Organizational
Development



Nicole (Nikki) Kirigin
VP University &
Academic Affairs



Eshana Baran
VP External &
Community Affairs



Abhishek (Abhi) Parmar
VP Finance & Services

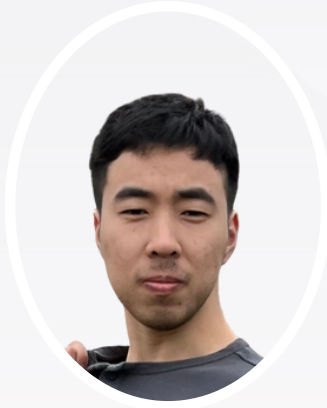


Rea Chatterjee
VP Equity & Sustainability



Vaibhav Arora
VP Events & Student Affairs

2023/24 Executive Committee



Liam Feng
President



Ashley Flett
Acting VP Internal and
Organizational Development



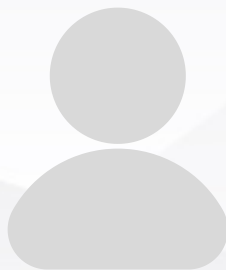
Jadvinder Bolina
VP Finance & Services



Thomas Lueth
VP University &
Academic Affairs



Nancy Brar
VP External &
Community Affairs



Priyanka Kaur Dhesa
VP Equity & Sustainability



Ayooluwa Adigun
VP Events & Student Affairs

Council Highlights 2022/2023

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 during this past year:

Highlights:

- Formed the SFSS Council Mental Health and Wellbeing Working Group for the purpose of preserving and promoting the mental health and wellbeing of those involved in the SFSS Council, such as drafting strategic plans and research to inform negotiations with the University for increased and specialized mental health support for Councillors, negotiating with Student Care to increase mental health benefits, conducting policy research and submitting proposals to the relevant committees and stakeholders, and conducting an analysis and producing a report with recommendations on the best practices within the SFSS to preserve and promote mental health and wellbeing
- Approved \$6400 as a donation to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS)
- Endorsed and amplified the Save SFU Democracy campaign
- Formed the SFSS Natural Disaster Response Working Group
- Approved funding to task the Executive members to attend the 2022 Labour Notes Conference in Chicago
- Approved a \$2500 SFSS donation to Contract Worker Justice @SFU (CWJ)
- Advocated and supported the Elimination of the International Students Health Fee
- Released a statement in Solidarity with the Iranian Community in support of Women's Rights and Freedom
- Approved funds for Burnaby Mountain Gondola celebration
- Approved the 2023 FASS Frenzy event budget
- Approved SUS FROSH event budget
- Approved funding for Fall 2022 Street Fest
- Approved Funds for furnishing expenses for the Physics Student Association and Computing Science Student Society from the space expansion fund

Committees Highlights 2022/2023

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.

Highlights:

- The VP Equity, the VP External and the President attended the ABCS Skills training conference from May 27th – May 29th, 2022
- Issued an immediate apology to SFU, denouncing the letter, and condemning the actions of the 2021-2022 SFSS Executive Committee
- Formally recommended and approved the 2021-2026 SFSS Strategic Plan, presented to Council on August 17th, 2022
- Endorsed the letter named “2023 British Columbia Rent Freeze” from the Alma Mater Society
- Implemented Safety Measures for Executives in the SUB
- Sent a letter of support and solidarity for Zain on behalf of the SFSS Executive to Zain’s assigned criminal court judge and a letter to the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
- Approved \$5000 to help subsidize the pricing for students attending the RHA Whistler Trip (Residence Hall Association (RHA) is a student-run organization made up of residents who have been elected by their peers and advocated on behalf of the residence population to voice concerns, plan events and programs to encourage community building and act as role models within the community)
- Formally endorsed the Accessibility Shuttle Proposal
- Sign onto a letter of support regarding the alteration, and education of “Portrait of a Woman in a Renaissance Costume with Cadmium Middle

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.

Committees Highlights 2022/2023

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.

Highlights:

- Recommended to council to adopt the policy amendment outlined in the “Censure Policy Corrections”
- Recommended updates and changes to Council Policies.
- Recommend APPEALS PROCESS FOR INAPPROPRIATE ADVERTISING to the Council
- Formally recommended Council to approve changes to the Election Referenda Policies

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.

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.

Highlights:

- Formed a working group to guide the development, review, and strategic implementation of the 2022/2023 UAA Annual Strategic Plan, led by the Vice-President University and Academic Affairs

Committees Highlights 2022/2023

- Formally condemned exploitative labour practices and supported advocacy towards the removal and banning of employers who engage in exploitative practices from campus spaces
- Formed a working group to guide the development, review, and strategic implementation of a new SFSS Issues Policy oriented towards the issue of labor exploitation, led by the Vice-President University and Academic Affairs

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.

Highlights:

- Released a survey to get student input on Tuition Freeze
- Coordinated the BC Federation of Student Visit to the SUB
- Coordinated funds for heat relief related items for membership during the 2022 summer semester
- Organized a water drive initiative for the unhoused community during the heat wave
- Attended the ABCS Lobbying days
- Hosted Trans Link Roundtable
- Hosted a Karaoke Night for membership
- Hosted Lobbying workshop
- Attended the Federal Lobbying day
- Worked on an award for Indigenous Students and International Students.
- Met with minister Jagmeet Singh

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.

Committees Highlights 2022/2023

Highlights:

- Assisted the Women's Centre and Iranian Club plan the Iranian Panel/ rally event on October 5th.
- Collaborated with Hillel Jewish Student Association for Jewish Festival "Purim" celebration tabling.
- Assisted in approving funding to help for Ahbap
- Assisted in approving funding to provide menstrual products to be distributed in SUB washroom
- Organized and planned for the event "Run for Students" for mental health initiative
- Approved funding to show support for the event "Stand with Ukraine; A year of fight for freedom"

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.

Highlights:

- Organized and planned for the three-day wellness retreat to restore creativity, engagement and overall well-being of the Black individuals at SFU after BHM

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.

Highlights:

- Approved funding to continue supporting parallel work sessions for SFU DNA
- Approved funding for 2/3-hour session of CART Captioning
- Approved funding to support the project: Student UBSD Hearing
- Supported with funding the DNA food voucher program to deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent SFU and FIC undergrads doing parallel work sessions which is keeping each other company while finishing tasks such as homework and paperwork

Committees Highlights 2022/2023

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.

Highlights:

- Organized movie night events
- Organized Welcome Packages for the students
- Organized India Vs Pakistan cricket event
- Organized Pet therapies
- Organized Paint night
- Organized Pancake breakfast event
- Hosted SFSS Street Fest
- Organized Halloween at SUB Ballroom
- Organized thanksgiving lunch in the SUB Social space
- Hosted Diwali event in partnership with ISF for SFU Students
- Assisted Student Care in promotion of flu clinics
- Organized LinkedIn Photoshoot
- Organized Munchines Monday
- Assisted with funding and hosted Christmas Carnival with SFU
- Give out 300 packages to residences for the year
- Hosted SFSS Valentines Pub night
- Organized and hosted Black Awareness month movie night with SFSS SOCA
- Hosted Trivia Night with SFU Ancillary at the Study Pub

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.

Committees Highlights 2022/2023

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:

- Approved funding to update internal wayfinding signage for the SUB. To make the SUB accessible and easy to navigate
- Approved purchasing of equipment to assist in facilitating meetings and events
- Approved funding from the Build SFU fund for the installation of whiteboards in student study rooms
- Approved funding from the Build SFU Fund to conduct a feasibility study on retrofitting space in the SUB into a suitable space for WUDU
- Approved funding for basic furnishing expenses for the Residence Hall Association from the space expansion fund

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.

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.

Committees Highlights 2022/2023

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.

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.

Highlights:

- Review Exec committee work reports
- Recommend to the CCBC to immediately begin an investigation
- Task the Acting President and the Acting VP Finance and Services to conduct a membership audit

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!

Highlights:

- Recommend to Council to appoint a member for FASC student at-large
- Recommend to Council to appoint four members for ECA student at-large
- Recommend to Council to appoint seven members for ECA student at-large

Committees Highlights 2022/2023

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.

Highlights:

- Approve the release of the survey questions proposed to the Membership to ensure student voices are heard in major society decisions
- Recommend to Council to call the AGM for October 27th 2022, starting at 5:30pm

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.

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.

SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

Student Centre

Over the past year, the Student Centre has officially surpassed pre-pandemic levels of activity and service. The demand for the members wanting to return to in-person events was marked by the steady increases in event and funding requests. The volume of requests for space and funding from student clubs has kept the staff in the Student Centre consistently busy and the continued increase of costs of services has resulted in some tightening of granting and core funds. 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.

2022/2023 Highlights:

- Moved the Student Centre into a new office of the SUB and led various programs such as continuing the Legal Clinic program (over 100 appointments), and the Food Bank (distributed over \$75,000 in foodbank vouchers) and the new Breakfast Program
- Continued hiring to supplement the team of front line staff to provide in-person services again
- Continued relationship building with various SFU departments to ensure student activity continues
- Updated and revised online resources for club executives, such as Club Onboarding Handbook, Events 101 page, and expanded Clubs 101 page on the SFSS website
- Processed and approved over 890 grants (nearly double of 2021-2022), totalling \$305,000 in funding, exceeding allocated budget by 14.2%
- Revised various policies and guidelines based on membership feedback

SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

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.

2022/2023 Highlights:

Over this year, student use of the Advocacy Office grew significantly. This could be attributed almost entirely to the increase in word-of-mouth referrals from students, staff, and faculty as well as referrals from other SFSS resources.

This year, the Office case intake tracker had 96 entries in addition to emailed issues and walk-ins. In total, the Advocate addressed an estimate of 125 unique student cases in the last year. There were a few significant wins this year including several Academic Integrity cases that were found in favour of the student and the penalty was removed and several where penalties were decreased, one student was reinstated back into their program tuition-free after being removed wrongfully, a grassroots fundraising project for a student in need, and a dramatically decreased damage fee in a case in student housing resulted in saving one student thousands of dollars.

SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

Student Union Building

In 2022 and 2023, the Student Union Building (SUB) continued to shine as a beacon of collaboration and engagement on our campus. One of its standout achievements during this time was the implementation of innovative booking procedures and guidelines for its diverse array of spaces, allowing the SUB to cater to events with remarkable efficiency.

The SUB served as the bustling epicenter of campus life, facilitating over 10,000 hours of activities in our event and team room spaces. These events and meetings ranged from intimate study sessions and small club gatherings to expansive career fairs and grand gala dinners. The SUB offered a versatile and welcoming environment for all, fostering a vibrant community that thrived within its walls.

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 ensures that the leadership teams have everything they need to succeed. During this year the department has focused on the usual areas:

- Organizing subsidized Food Safe workshops
- Helping students utilize Travel and Conference funding
- Processing a larger than usual number of grant applications
- Assisting several student unions in furnishing their spaces
- Helping student leaders plan and execute their Elections, events, projects and much more!

SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

Surrey Office

The SFSS Surrey Office is located at the Surrey Campus in the SRYC Building. The campus is home to 8,000+ students. 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 and nap. 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 Staff and Administration have access to all things SFSS related just as they do in Burnaby.

2022/2023 Highlights:

- A new SFSS Surrey games lounge opened and this helps to enhance student activities on campus
- 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 warmup, spring festival, Surrey summerfest, Surrey movie nights and first Friday
- Extended support to the SFU Surrey games lounge by providing games to engage students
- Hosted clubs days which recurs every semester
- Provided support to executives and committees to host events on Surrey campus including the Surrey mayoral candidate debate, Surrey Diwali celebration and more
- Provided in-person front line services to the general membership



SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

Women's Centre

The Women's Centre is located on SFU's second floor of the Student Union Building. The Centre hosts a variety of events and workshops such as yoga classes, gardening, and social justice interests and fundraisers. 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 safer sex supplies (external and internal condoms, lube, pregnancy tests, gift cards for plan b), menstrual supplies (pads, tampons, diva cups) for free for all undergraduate, FIC, graduate and postgraduate students across all SFU campuses. The 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 with the goal of creating a space and establishing a student collective on each of these campuses. We hope to empower student involvement and enable student autonomy and power.

2022/2023 Highlights:

- Spring & Fall Service Fair
- Spring & Fall Clubs Day
- Consistent weekly programming for Summer/ Fall semester
- Established Surrey Collective
- Fundraised \$67.00 for Rainbow Refugee



SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

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. OOC is open to all queer and trans undergraduate, graduate and FIC students and allies. Their 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 they offer. These are all free and include:

- Student involvement through casual volunteering or becoming a Collective member
- Various snacks & drinks in the lounge
- Safer sex & menstrual supplies
- 2SLGBTQIA+ focused library (feat. books, DVDs and stim toys)
- Guidance for on/off campus support through referrals (crisis or noncrisis) and other resources
- Regular programming (social + educational)
- An array of gender affirming products
- An active Discord of more than 300 people

2022/2023 Highlights:

- Fall, Spring & Summer Services Fair
- Fall, Spring & Summer Clubs Day
- Re-established presence on the SFSS council with appointment of the OOC Collective council representative
- Partnered with Qmunity on their Bras, Binders, and Breast Forms Exchange Program to offer students more free gender affirming products on top of what OOC already provides
- Published a new and expanded Resource Guide for 2SLGBTQIA+ students



SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

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.

2022/2023 Highlights:

- Met with representatives in the government at the municipal, provincial and federal level to discuss issues pertinent to students including Burnaby Mayor Hurley, MLA Anne Kang- BC Minister for Advanced Education Skills and Training and Minister Salma Zahid
- Launched and analyzed a survey on tuition during SFU Budget consultation process so that undergrads' input will be factored into it
- Organized and held two municipal election debates in Burnaby and Surrey
- Collaborated with the three municipalities (Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey) to ensure that students know about the municipal elections and why it is important to exercise their franchise
- Collaborated with the provincial government on ...its not yes campaign- province's sexual violence prevention campaign during the fall and spring semesters
- Drafted, submitted and help VP external present students' priorities for the 2022/2023 BC budget consultation
- Drafted and submitted a report on what changes could be done to the BC post-secondary funding formulae
- Supported the Executive and Council over the course of the year: This includes orientation, SOP, Privacy and confidentiality guidance, and Robert's Rules
- Updated 10 individual policies and SOPs for both Executive committee and staff
- Wrote briefing notes that provided a summary of research on topics requested by staff and the Executive Committee-Planned, or assisted in Council development sessions
- Planned and run Spring 2023 General Elections

SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

Communications

The team provides communication services to facilitate Member access to SFSS services and promote its advocacy efforts. To keep membership informed and connected, the team supports the SFSS student leadership and departments through graphic design, communication advice, content creation and dissemination. The Department is responsible for the SFSS website, social media and newsletter and helps with media relationship management, information inquiries coordination and survey development. They also help SFSS student groups promote their content on the SFSS channels.

2022/2023 Highlights

Between April 2022-April 2023, SFSS Communications responded to hundreds of support requests including 353 work orders received through JotForm only. Some of the main campaigns the team supported this year included:

- SFSS Clubs Days, AGM, Executive committee elections and by-election and committees hiring
- Food security initiatives: Munchie Mondays, SFSS Breakfast Program, Community Fridge
- Student mental health activities: Pet Therapy, Run for Student Mental Health, International Self-Care Day Giveaway
- Advocacy campaigns: Accessible Course Practices, SFSS and RHA Student Housing Survey to advocate for more affordable student housing, Municipal Elections Debates, SFSS budget recommendations to BC
- Cultural and humanitarian Days: Indigenous History Month, Black History Month, International Women's Day, Lunar New Year, Holi, Halloween
- Transparency and outreach campaigns: SFSS Month in Review, Meet Your Students Leaders
- Other: First Aid Certification Workshops, Flu Clinic, Summer Fest,
- LinkedIn Photoshoot

The team also worked on creating new communication guidelines and updating SOPs. They produced multiple outreach materials for different SFSS departments including for the Advocacy Office to help students navigate challenging academic situations.

SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

Events

The SFSS Events Coordinator's role encompasses offering support and guidance to the Events Committee and SFSS Board of Directors. This includes involvement in planning, conducting risk assessments, considering budgets, and handling logistics for various events. The ultimate objective is to curate a diverse range of both large and small events throughout the year, all aimed at benefiting and engaging our members.

2022/2023 Highlights

Some of the events we successfully hosted or collaborated last year include:

- Extended support to executives and their committees at the events such as the Mental Health Run and the Translink Roundtable, addressing crucial topics and fulfilling community needs
- In partnership with SFU, planned the WinterFest, hosted a Pancake Breakfast, and organized movie nights, fostering unity within our SFU community and creating enjoyable experiences while reinforcing our collaborations
- Revitalized and introduced notable events like the Holi celebration and Halloween event, drawing considerable enthusiasm and participation from our members
- Played a continual part in upholding the high quality of recurring events like Clubs Days every semester and the Christmas Food Package for students on residence during Christmas holidays
- Continues to foster diversity and engagement within our community by supporting the cultural partnerships, like the Diwali Celebration and Asia Cup Live

These events not only showcase our commitment to a vibrant community but also offer opportunities for members to connect and participate in meaningful experiences.

SFSS Service Highlights 2022/2023

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 includes:

- 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

Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA)

SFU DNA is a **student-led network** of SFU community members who identify as disabled, autistic, neurodivergent, Deaf, mad, and/or as having a disability, chronic illness, long-term condition, or mental illness. They work together to **create campus change**, **address ableism**, and **promote disability justice** while opposing oppression in all forms. As a constituency group, they serve as the **official representative voice for disabled and neurodivergent SFU and FIC undergrads**.

The DNA has designated voting seats on the [SFSS Council](#), [SFSS Accessibility Committee](#), and [SFSS Equity and Sustainability Committee](#). They run the **DNA Resource Centre** in Room 1300 on the first floor of the Student Union Building, with the help of volunteers and two support staff members.

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 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. Currently, post-secondary institutions, student associations and Translink are reviewing agreements under u-pass to ensure that all students benefit from this program. The SFSS has successfully incorporated auditing students into the U-Pass program as of spring 2022 and are looking for innovative ways to ensure that students can still benefit from this program during the summer semesters when the majority of students do not have the minimum required credits to be eligible for this program.

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. Mental wellness has become an integral part of holistic health. Due to this, the SFSS has taken steps to ensure that our extended health care provider makes these services available to students. Currently, the plan provides psycho-educational assessment to students. In a bid to extend more mental wellness services to our students, our extended health service provider launched a campaign to increase premiums. In a referendum held in the spring and fall semester of last year, the proposed increased premiums did not pass. This did not mean that the SFSS did not value mental health and wellness but acknowledged that in the current economic climate, increased premiums would have negatively impacted our students. Consequently, the SFSS has collaborated with SFU through MySSP and the provincial government LetsTalk initiatives to help fill in the gaps in mental health and wellness the proposed increased premiums would have covered.

Other SFSS Services

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 Woodward's, or Surrey Central T&T. The Food Certificates must be used towards the purchase of food items only. Questions? Contact studentcentre@sfss.ca.

SFSS Free Breakfast Program Sponsored by Acuitas Therapeutics



The SFSS Free Breakfast program operated between February 17, 2023 and April 4, 2023 (7 sessions). The breakfast was barrier-free to all participants no limit on food was placed for students. The first breakfast was served to over 125 students. Every week, it grew with more students attending and by April 4th, we had over 230 students attending. The average cost of groceries for each breakfast session was \$272.00 with an average cost of \$2.00 per student over the course for the event.

Other SFSS Services

A variety of food was offered:

- Toast with a large variety of spreads including peanut butter, jam, cheddar cheese and vegan slices, guacamole, butter, nutter butter, Nutella
- Oatmeal with raisins, cinnamon, brown sugar
- Oat milk and almond milk, homogenized milk
- Regular yogurt and coconut milk yogurt
- Muesli cereal
- Fresh fruits: apples, oranges, bananas and grapes
- Cookies and chocolate wafers as sweet treats

A refurbished conveyor toaster was purchased with some of the donated funds. Students were extremely happy with the selection of food available and very thankful to Acuitas Therapeutics for their generous donation.

The Free Breakfast Program is set to start up again during “September 2023 Welcome Month”.

