

simon fraser
student society

SFSS ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

2023-2024

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Message from the President

Dear Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) Members,

I welcome you all to the SFSS Annual General Meeting (AGM). It is an honor to serve as your President, representing the voices of over 25,000 undergraduate students at SFU. Over the past year, we've grown together, learned from one another, and faced challenges as a united community. I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible strides we've made as a union and acknowledge the obstacles we still face, while recognizing the opportunities these challenges bring for future progress.

The SFSS has worked relentlessly to address the priorities that matter most to you. From advocating for more affordable tuition to pushing for expanded on-campus student housing, your student society has been championing initiatives that directly respond to your needs. We've made significant progress in strengthening support systems, creating more inclusive events, and advocating to both the university and government on your behalf. We've also worked to improve communication so that you feel more connected and informed about the SFSS's efforts. As you go through the rest of this report, you'll gain deeper insight into the impactful work we've been doing to better serve and support you all.

While we've made progress, we recognize that significant challenges remain. The rising cost of living continues to affect many of us, and recent university budget cuts have only heightened the need for more financial, mental health, and academic support. These issues remain urgent priorities for the SFSS. Rest assured, we are actively working with SFU administration and external stakeholders to ensure your concerns are not only heard but addressed. Our commitment to finding sustainable solutions is unwavering, and we will continue to advocate for the resources and support you deserve.

Message from the President

As we look ahead into this school year, I am excited about the new opportunities we have to strengthen our community. Our focus will remain on student advocacy, pushing for accessibility on campus, and ensuring that the SFSS continues to be a strong and active voice for all students. We have major projects lined up, including expanded outreach efforts, new student services, more scholarships/awards opportunities, enhanced health & dental plans, new event ideas, the continuation of equity-focused programs, and many more.

Today's AGM is not just a formality—it's an opportunity for you to take part in shaping the direction of the SFSS for the next year. I encourage you to ask questions, raise concerns, and contribute to the discussions. Every decision made here today reflects our collective goals and vision for a better student experience.

Thank you for your participation and for trusting me and our team to lead. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to make meaningful changes at SFU one step at a time.

Let's make this another year of progress!

Your President,
Emmanuel Adegboyega
SFSS

Letter from Council

Dear SFSS Membership,

We, the 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 Council year. We hope the work we've done has benefitted student engagement this year and made our campuses a better place.

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 2023-2024 Simon Fraser Student Society Council

Introduction

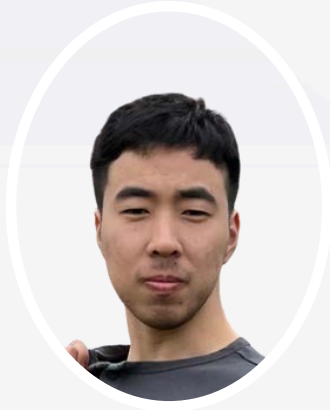
About the Simon Fraser Student Society

The Simon Fraser Student Society is a student-led organization that represents and advocates for the interests of 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 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](#).

2023/24 Executive Committee



Liam Feng
President



Ashley Flett
Acting VP Internal and
Organizational Development



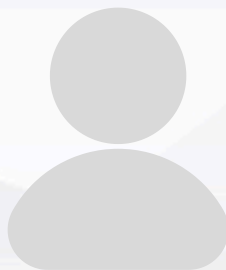
Jadvinder Bolina
VP Finance & Services



Thomas Lueth
VP University &
Academic Affairs



Nancy Brar
VP External &
Community Affairs

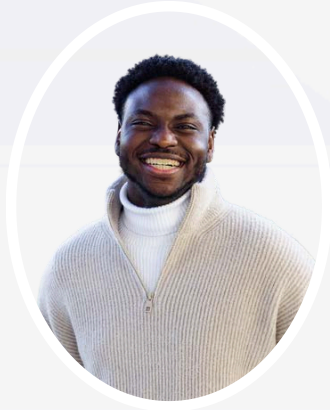


Priyanka Kaur Dhesa
VP Equity & Sustainability



Ayooluwa Adigun
VP Events & Student Affairs

2024/25 Executive Committee



Emmanuel Adegboyega
President



Sam Killawee
VP Internal and Organizational
Development



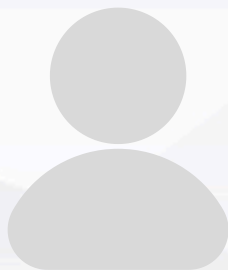
Simar Sahota
VP Finance & Services



Rishu Bagga
VP University &
Academic Affairs



Joel Gilani
VP External &
Community Affairs



Chloe Arneson
VP Equity & Sustainability



Chitransh Motwani
VP Events & Student Affairs

Council Highlights 2023/2024

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:

- Drafting, signing, and endorsement of letters in support of various causes:
 - Drafting:
 - Letter of support titled “Press Statement - Tuition Refund” to support students during the Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) strike.
 - Letter advocating against increases in residence fees addressed to SFU Board of Governors.
 - Petition released to students in support of a Fall Reading Break.
 - Endorsement and Support:
 - Justice for Palestine’s open letter addressed to SFU.
 - The SFSS calls for a permanent ceasefire in Palestine, an end to the siege and genocide in Gaza, cessation of Israeli occupation in Palestinian territories, and support the current Palestinian Liberation Issues Policy, which was previously approved by Council.
 - Signing:
 - UBC AMS letter titled “Make Education Accessible at Post-Secondary Institutions” to ensure equitable and accessible course practices.
 - BC Federation of Students' letter regarding making post-secondary education experience better by identifying five specific funding problems and making education fairer, especially for international students.
- Approval of funding for various events and conferences for student groups, including:
 - Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS): Diwali and Holi
 - Computing Science Student Society (CSSS): Frosh, Silicon Valley Trip, and FAS Formal
 - Engineering Science Student Society (ESSS): Frosh, and Western Engineering Conference
 - Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union (IATSU): Eunoia Design Jam
 - Residence Hall Association (RHA): Whistler Trip
 - Science Undergraduate Society (SUS): Frosh, Winter Formal, and Women in Science Empower Seminar
 - Software System Student Society (SSSS): System Hacks Hackathon
 - SFU Surge: StormHacks

Council Highlights 2023/2024

- Approval of furnishing, space expansion, and equipment funding:
 - Engineering Science Student Society (ESSS) room furnishing.
 - Surrey Engineering Building space expansion.
 - SFU Esports Association's Gamers' Lounge equipment renewal.
- Re-negotiation of lease terms with SFU regarding the Student Union Building (SUB).
- Acceptance of the Student Care agreement.
- Approval and enactment of the SFSS Community Guidelines.
- Approval and review of SFSS policies, including the financial policies, and the member services & groups policies.
- Implementation of stipend reduction for Councillors.
- Directed Oversight Committee on Executive Officers (OCEO) to investigate breaches of By-Law, Policies, and/or Issues Policies.

Committees Highlights 2023/2024

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:

- Approval of funding for various events and conferences for student groups, including:
 - SFSS: Summerfest, Diwali, Pancake Breakfast (Free Breakfast Program), Valentine's Day Celebration, Lunar New Year Celebration, LinkedIn Photoshoot, Pet Therapy, Study Break Event at The "Study"
 - Environmental Science Student Union: Portland Experiential Learning Trip
 - Geography Student Union: Student Summit
- Formed a working group in regards to food security initiatives.
- VP Finance and Administrative Services and VP Internal and Organizational Development attended a StudentCare Conference in Montreal, QC.
- VP University and Academic Affairs was appointed as SFSS's representative for SFU's Ombudsperson Advisory Committee.
- Installment of third-party screens in the SUB by SFU Ancillary Services for further revenue generation.
- Reviewed and approved the SFSS and SFU Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Worked with the Faculty of Applied Sciences to draft and approve an MOU and SUB Guidelines for the use of room SUB 1330 as a space for design team usage.
- Acting VP Internal and Organizational Development and VP Finance and Administrative Services signed the StudentCare agreement on behalf of Council.
- Approval of the second draft of the financial budget for the 2024-2025 Council term.

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:

- Supported the accessibility operations of SFU Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA) by funding their CART captioning at meetings and events and funding their Parallel Study Session Food Vouchers.

Committees Highlights 2023/2024

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:

- Assisted with funding and running the “Fireside Chat with Ann Najjar” event in early 2024.

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, misogyny, and varying types of oppression.

Highlights:

- Assisted with continuing SFSS initiatives on addressing food insecurity, by approving, funding and helping run the Munchie Mondays Program.
- Discussed, proposed, and approved funding for a Menstrual Product Program to start a trial run with providing free menstrual supplies in the SUB bathrooms.
- Proposed to Council that the SFSS lobby for a fall semester reading break for SFU students.
- Collaborated with Steps-Forward to ensure that students from that initiative were given transit passes based on full recognition that they were part of the SFSS and not based on their age.
- Started the process of piloting volunteer opportunities at the SFSS for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Committees Highlights 2023/2024

Events and Student Affairs Committee

The events committee is the heart of SFSS operations, overseeing and developing events on behalf of the Council for the membership. The committee assists student unions, clubs, and constituency groups in planning events as well.

Highlights:

- The Events and Student Affairs Committee successfully supported, planned and hosted multiple events throughout the 2023-2024 academic year to uphold a vibrant and entertaining campus community. These events include:
 - Pet Therapy - Held once every semester to help students feel calm and relaxed while with petting dogs!
 - Movie Nights - SFSS held multiple movie nights during the year!
 - Diwali - A beautiful party held in the Aria Banquet hall for a night of Indian cuisine, music, celebration and dance.
 - Thanksgiving Pizza Party - A celebration of the fall holiday with free pizza for students.
 - Halloween Costume Party - Halloween celebration in the SUB Ballroom with photo booths, treats, face painting, pumpkin painting and more.
 - Winter Holiday Warm Up - A winter celebration with treats, beverages, games and activities.
 - Holi Hai - A festival filled with color, culture, music and dance celebrating the arrival of spring.
- Continued SFSS initiatives on addressing food insecurity, by maintaining the Community Fridge Program, as well as assisting with the Free Breakfast Program.
- The committee also joined SFSS for tabling during Fall Welcome Day and Streetfest 2023.
- The committee aided the SFU Residence and Housing Association in supplying, packaging and distributing Christmas Food Packages for students requiring food while the SFU Residence Dining Hall was closed during the winter break.

Committees Highlights 2023/2024

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:

- Continued SFSS initiatives on addressing food insecurity, by maintaining the Community Fridge Program, as well as assisting with the Free Breakfast Program.
- Met with Ravi Kahlon, the Minister of Housing, to discuss problems related and faced by students when searching for on-campus and off-campus housing rentals.
- Presented on Purpose built student housing at the Vancouver City Council
- Represented the SFSS membership (i.e. SFU undergraduate students) at the provincial lobbying trip in Victoria, BC to address issues on food insecurity, housing concerns, tuition increases, international student issues, and more.
- Presented student suggestions during the BC Budget consultation process
- Met with staff from the educational minister’s office to discuss the post-secondary funding formulae and how we can make tuition fees predictable for domestic and international students
- Collaborated with other Executive Officers to host various events such as the 2023 Welcome Day in Fall and Valentine's Day celebration.

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 2023/24 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.

Committees Highlights 2023/2024

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.

Highlights:

- Reviewed and streamlined the Finance Policies to reflect current practices and to prevent overspending from multiple funds.
- Consulted a GST Tax Specialist to ensure that the Society's tax procedures are up to date.
- Developed and proposed the 2024-2025 Council Term Budget with changes to address the financial considerations over the past 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 did not meet during the 2023/2024 Council year.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee serves as the oversight for the Society's constitution, bylaws, and policies. It may propose amendments, new policies and review bylaws to ensure organizational development for the Society.

Highlights:

- Conducted a review of the Terms of References for Council Committees in the SFSS Council Policies.
- Updated and approved the changes to the SFSS Finance Policies
- Conducted a review of "R-17: Associate Vice-Presidents in the SFSS Council Policies."
- Discussed and clarified the role and duties of the Associate Vice-President(s).

Committees Highlights 2023/2024

- Updated Council Policy language to be more inclusive and accessible.
- Recommended changes and updates to "OTP-2: New Council Orientation and Retention" in the SFSS Orientation and Retention Policies.

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.

Member Services Advisory Committee

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 work to create more inclusive and safer policies.

Highlights:

- Conducted review and proposed changes to the Member Services Group Policies, including "MSGP-7: Bullying and Harassment", "MSGP-3: Constituency Groups" and "MSGP-4: Faculty and Department Student Unions"
- Updated the "Club 101" SFSS webpage to better reflect current expectations for clubs, clarify instructions and give students more thorough information and resources. These changes bring the SFSS more in alignment with SFU Recreation, sports clubs, and other university student societies.
- Introduced changes to Clubs Day Operations, including implementing a no-show fee for clubs who registered a table, banning inappropriate behaviors/games, and prohibiting collaboration with external groups.

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 did not meet during the 2023/2024 Council year.

Committees Highlights 2023/2024

Nominating Committee

The 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. The committee did not meet during the 2023/2024 Council year.

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.

Oversight Committee on Executive Officers

The committee was created with the adoption of the New Council Policies which took effect on May 1, 2021. The primary responsibility of the oversight committee is to supervise the conduct of Executive Officers. It also has the mandate, when necessary, to investigate the conduct of Executive Officers and, upon concluding an investigation, potentially recommend disciplinary action to the Council. Lastly, the committee has the ability to reduce the stipend of Executive Officers, when deemed necessary after an investigation.

Highlights:

- Conducted an investigation into and evaluation of the SFSS membership status of VP Finance and Administrative Services.
- Conducted an investigation into failure to meet By-Law requirements.
- Conducted an investigation into and evaluation of misconduct regarding the Society's Issues Policies.
- Reduce stipends following the conclusion of the investigations.
- Conducted investigations into potential breach of confidence

Committees Highlights 2023/2024

Space Oversight Committee

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

Student Healthcare Committee

The purpose of this committee is to ensure that students have input when deciding changes to the Student Healthcare Plans. This committee is in place to make sure students are able to engage with planning throughout the fiscal year regarding changes to the Student Healthcare Plans, while also ensuring that if services are cut that they do not significantly impact certain groups. This is why there are three dedicated seats for marginalized groups, who have often been left out of the conversation and given inadequate health care due to a lack of proper representation.

Highlights:

- Maintaining working relations with insurance providers for most efficient healthcare plans
- Working toward referendum to increase health fees to ensure the sustainability of the plan without drawing from reserve funds, maintaining the balance necessary to continue supporting student health needs.

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 2023/2024

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:

- Met with Selina Robinson, the Former Minister for Advanced Education Skills and Training, to discuss issues affecting students in post-secondary schools.
- Met with SFU Administration to discuss the upcoming SFU tuition increase caps for domestic and international students.
- Continued SFSS initiatives on addressing food insecurity, including:
 - Approved funding and ran the Munchie Mondays program during the 2023/2024 academic year
 - Collaborated with the Member Services Department to run the Free Breakfast Program.
- Collaborated with SFU to launch a survey on tuition during SFU Budget consultation process so that the undergraduate students' input will be factored into SFU's decision making process.

Vancouver Campus Committee

Vancouver Campus Committee, much like the Surrey Campus Committee, is tasked with bringing engagement and creating opportunities for 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.

Highlights:

- Approval of funding for food and cleaning supplies for the SFSS Lounge at the SFU Vancouver Campus Harbour Centre.

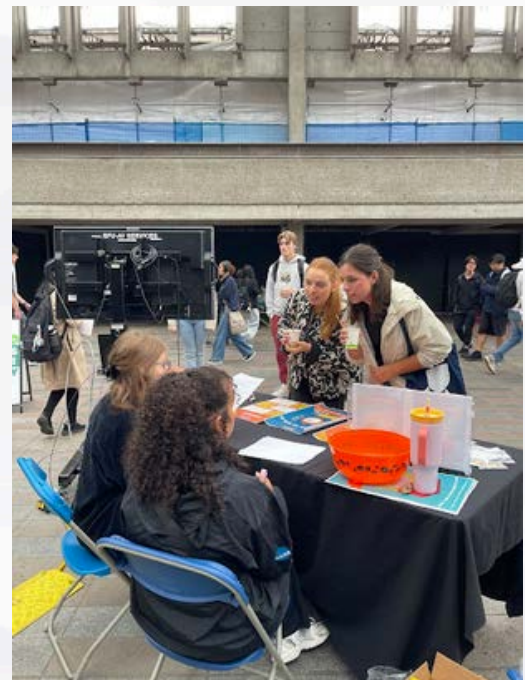
SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

Student Centre

Over the past year, the Student Centre has grown significantly in terms of staffing and the number of approved Student clubs. There are currently more than 175 approved clubs within the SFSS. Student clubs are central to campus life, providing students with opportunities to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and build a sense of community. The Student Centre's goal is to provide resources such as dedicated meeting spaces, funding for events and activities, and administrative assistance to all of the clubs on campus.

2023/2024 Highlights:

- Continued hiring to supplement the team of front line staff to provide in-person services
- Continued relationship building with various SFU departments to ensure student activity continues
- Member Services Administrative Assistants present at Clubs Days interacting with SFSS membership
- Processed and approved over 1,136 grants, totalling \$350,000 in funding, exceeding allocated budget by 34.6%
- Processed and distributed over 1900 Food Bank vouchers (over \$142,500 for their Food Security Program) for all SFU/FIC undergraduate students



SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

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.

2023/2024 Highlights:

This is the third year the Advocacy Office has existed at the SFSS. The estimated total caseload for 2023/2024 is 178 individuals. The workload of this office has more than doubled since year one (122.5% increase) and increased by nearly half (a 42.4% increase) from year two to year three. This increase in workload is attributed to multiple factors:

1. Awareness of the office has risen year after year leading to increased demand.
2. Referrals have increased both from within the SFSS and most especially from SFU staff year after year. SFU's budget cuts to key areas of Student Services may have led to an increase in students seeking support from the SFSS. Overburdened Academic Advisors referred more students when they would have traditionally helped the students themselves.

As in previous years, the majority of cases involved Withdrawals Due to Extenuating Circumstances (51 cases, a massive increase from last year's 17), Academic Integrity Hearings (15 cases), and Academic Concessions (10 cases). The most time-consuming cases remain program-initiated withdrawals from the PDP Program.

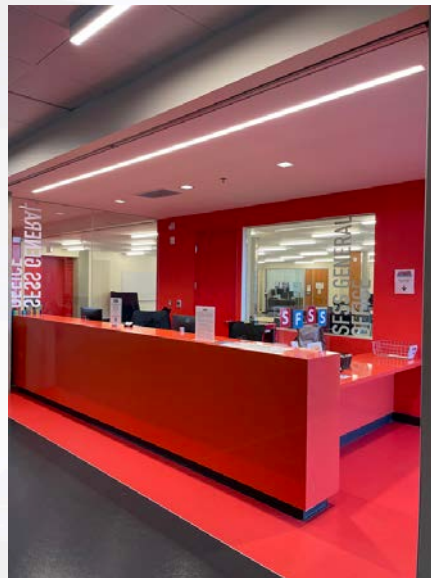
SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

Student Union Building

In 2023 and 2024, the Student Union Building (SUB) has continued to shine as a beacon of collaboration and engagement on Burnaby campus. The SUB serves as a vibrant study and hangout space for students with 15 study rooms, 5 floors of seating areas, bookable event spaces for student groups and other amenities. From May 2023 - April 2024, over 1300 meetings and events for SFSS Clubs, Student Unions, and related groups in bookable spaces were facilitated.

The SUB is open and staffed from 9:00am to 10:00pm daily making it a central information point on Burnaby campus. Consistent staffing also ensures that the building team are able to monitor the state of the SUB closely to ensure that the condition and cleanliness of the building are maintained for the safety and comfort of students and the broader SFU community.

As the SUB enters its third year of operation, this team is gaining a better understanding of the space and working towards ensuring that the beautiful and unique building is used to its full potential.



SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

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:

- Grants and events review and approval,
- Training and onboarding for the newly elected executives,
- Travel and Conference funding management,
- FoodSafe workshops organization,
- Elections prep and facilitation,
- Helping emerging student leaders revive dormant unions,
- Review and editing Constitutions and By-laws,
- Continuing to improve and maintain student spaces in the SUB and other locations on campus.

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 clubs that are regularly active in Surrey, the 4 student unions (SUs) housed there, and works closely with SFU Surrey Student Engagement to provide activities for Surrey Students. The office is located at the back of the Surrey lounge which provides students with space to study, socialize, eat, 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 as in Burnaby.

2023/2024 Highlights:

- Organized Surrey Clubs Day 3 times throughout the year.
- Hosted the “Welcome Week Breakfast” and supplied photo booths
- Participated in the holiday Mezzanine events.
- Supported clubs and SUs to hold recurring meetings and larger events like Frosh, Systems Fair, BASS Mentor Swap and more.

SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

Women's Centre

The Women's Centre is on SFU's second floor of the SUB. The Centre hosts various 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 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. We aim to empower student involvement and enable student autonomy and power.

2023/2024 Highlights:

- Opened up drop-in center to later evening hours (Monday-Wednesday for students to access the space and services).
- Participated in Clubs Days and SFUReady for all semesters
- Brought in a counsellor to help support Women's Center general membership (once a month 6 sessions provided).
- Recruited and maintained 35 volunteers that help keep the programming, events, and center running smoothly.
- Second year of maintaining a strong Women's Centre Collective
- Successful ran three major International Women's Day events across all three campuses
- Supported December 6th Memorial event for the second year



SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

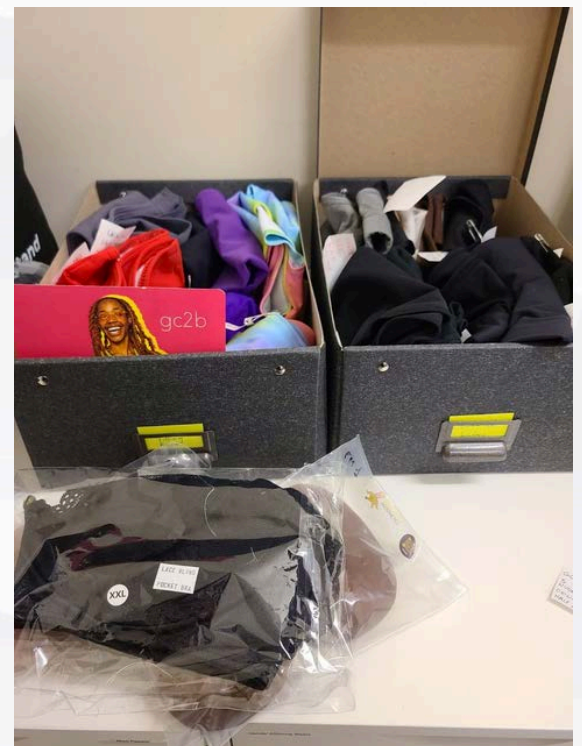
Out on Campus

Out on Campus (OOC) is located on the second floor of the SUB 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 one's gender and sexual identity, make connections with likeminded people, and to comfortably use all of the resources and support they offer. These are all free and include:

- Student involvement through casual volunteer or Collective member program
- Various snacks & drinks in the lounge
- Safer sex & menstrual supplies
- 2SLGBTQIA+ focused library
- Guidance for on/off campus support through referrals (crisis or noncrisis) and other resources
- Regular programming (social + educational)
- An array of gender affirming products
- A very active Discord

2023/2024 Highlights:

- Expanded inventory of gender affirming products available to students
- Sat on the advisory committee for Sexual Assault Awareness Month in January
- Participated in Clubs Days and SFUReady for all semesters
- Collaborated with the Women's Centre, DNA and other groups or individuals on various events
- Kept the OOC lounge open for later hours on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Organised and ran Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20th, in collaboration with DNA
- Provided a continuous clothing swap, with the clothing rack situated outside of the lounge to prioritise this being low barrier and stigma free



SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

Policy, Research and Community Affairs Office

The Policy, Research, Community Affairs Office (PRCA) Report comprises of two main reports:

1. Report on the activities of the Policy Research Community Affairs team; and
2. Report on activities of the Campaigns and Mobilization Coordinator (CAMC).

The PRCA office coordinates the Society's research project; leads policy reviews, analysis, and interpretation of established Council policies and By-laws; upholds the Society's privacy and confidentiality standards; and ensures adherence to the governing documents (British Columbia Societies Act, Universities Act, SFSS by-laws, etc.).

The CAMC office works with the Executives to design and implement the Society's campaigns and social intervention programs such as the Community Fridge. These aim to improve student well-being while also fulfilling our corporate social duty in accordance with our shared principles.

Additionally, both offices work together to coordinate the Annual General Membership meeting, Elections and Referenda for the Society.

2023/2024 Highlights:

- Updated SFSS policies & Revised and helped initiate old and new Standard of Operations Procedure(SOP)
- Planned and ran Spring 2024 elections and issued a candidate orientation manual.
- Supported 3 committees with policy and operational advice
- Generated Membership Mailing list (Monthly)
- Updated Society documents with BC Society
- Conducted extensive report and produced over 50 briefing notes
- Met with representatives in the government at the municipal, provincial and federal level to discuss pertinent affecting students including including Burnaby Mayor Hurley, MLA Ravi Kahlon Housing Minister and Selina Robinson Minister for Advanced Education Skills and Training and Minister Salma Zahid
- Successfully launched and analyzed a survey on tuition during SFU Budget consultation process so that undergrads' input will be factored into it
- Successfully collaborated with the provincial government on the "...Is Not Yes" campaign - the province's sexual violence prevention campaign - during the fall and spring semesters
- Drafted, submitted and assisted the VP external in presenting students' priorities for the 2023/2024 BC budget consultation
- Presented at the Vancouver and Burnaby municipal council on the need for student housing

SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

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, newsletter and mass emails sent to SFSS members 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.

2023/2024 Highlights

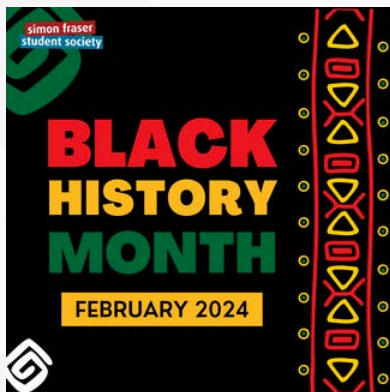
Between April 2023-April 2024, SFSS Communications responded to hundreds of support requests. Some of the main campaigns the team supported this year included:

- **SFSS governance-related events:** AGM, elections, by-elections, committee and associate VPs recruitment.
- **Food security initiatives:** SFSS Free breakfast sponsored by ACUITAS THERAPEUTICS, SFSS Breakfast in Surrey campus, SFU community fridge, Munchie Mondays, SFU DNA Food Voucher program and SFSS Care Packages for students.
- **Cultural events:** Holi festival, Lunar New Year Celebration, Diwali, Halloween costume party, SFSS Thanksgiving Pizza Party, Valentine's Day Pizza Party.
- **SFSS recurring events:** Clubs Days, LinkedIn Photoshoot, Summer Fest, Pet Therapy, Imaginus Poster Fair, Food Safe Certification workshop, First Aid Level 1 Certification workshop (facilitated by Pacific First Aid).
- **Other miscellaneous events and campaigns:** SFSS Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast, SUB Hours Survey that informed the SFSS decision to adjust the services and space hours in the SUB, TSSU Strike informational content to help students navigate the situation and make informed decisions.
- **Humanitarian Days and commemorations:** National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S, Indigenous History Month, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, National Indigenous People's Day, Black History Month, International Women's Day.
- **Advocacy actions:** RHA survey (to gather insights from students and better help advocate for more affordable student housing and improved SFU residence services), #saveSFUfootball campaign (in relation to SFU decision to terminate the only NCAA Football Program in Canada.), SFSS statement on the Palestine-Israel Conflict and ceasefire, open Letter Regarding Tuition Refund during TSSU Strike, \$10,000 SFSS Award Open to Undergraduate Black Students.

SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

- **Material for the new executive team** including business cards, door signs, nametags, introductory posts (#MeetYourStudentLeaders campaign) and other templates.

The team also worked on updating the website, promoting all the SFSS external open positions, updating report templates and providing survey support to executives and staff members.



SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

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.

2023/2024 Highlights

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

- Spring, Summer, and Fall Clubs Days
 - Over 100 Student Clubs and Unions came out to booth and represented the SFSS Community by interacting with students during each semester and allowing others to learn more about their Club or Student Union plans for the the year, and methods for getting involved.
- SFSS Pancake Breakfast
 - Volunteers helped serve the student body with pancakes as a welcome and start to the semester.
- Pet Therapy
 - In collaboration with Pets & Friends, Pets Therapy allowed students to relax before the final exam period and play with dogs.

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



SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

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, SOCA Black Student Support Centre does a myriad of activities such as events, advocacy, services and community and social gatherings. Find more about SOCA at www.sfusoca.ca.

SOCA Black Student Support Center programming includes:

- Cultural Programming for Black Students
- Advocacy: SFU Black Student Office
- Partnership/Solidarity work with Constituency Groups & SFU Departments:
 - SFU Black Caucus & SFU Student Services - (Black Grad Event)
 - SFU Communications - (support with event publication)
 - SFU Student Learning Commons (support with space for the Black Study)
 - SVSPO - sexual violence awareness
 - SFU Health & Counseling - Men's Talk event, Black Healing Space etc.
 - 5s working group
- Administrative Support to SOCA specifically, event coordination, newsletter design, social media management, and general membership meetings coordination

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.

SFSS Service Highlights 2023/2024

Over the 2023-2024 year, DNA has put on a variety of social events, added graduate students as full members, helped give feedback on SFU's Accessibility Plan, and spread the word about their services to the wider student body! DNA has collaborated with Out On Campus, the Women's Centre, Embark, SVSPO, SFPIRG, the SFSS, and other groups. Their DNA Resource Centre is more popular than ever. DNA is giving out more resources and providing support to more students than ever before, and students are excited about getting involved and helping lead the group.

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



With the continuing generosity of Acuitas Therapeutics, the Simon Fraser Student Society was able to continue our initiative on addressing food insecurity. We provided twenty-three Free Breakfast events from February 2023 - March 2024. Additionally, we were able to purchase some key equipment which resulted in lower equipment costs compared to rentals ultimately keeping the program costs low. The 23 events consisted of pancakes, toast with a wide variety of toppings, grilled cheese sandwiches, oatmeal, yogurt, frozen berries, muesli cereal, oat milk, almond milk, fresh fruit, and for the sweet treat cookies or small wafers of chocolate. The overall feedback from the attendees was positive and we were able to help our members and students with the ever increasing threat of food insecurity.

Other SFSS Services

When the first event launched, we knew that there was a need but was unsure of the true impact that this program would have. By the end of 2023, we hosted 18 breakfast sessions, and served just under 4000 students. As the program progressed, the last breakfast event hosted at the end of March 2024, was attended by over 375 students. In the six sessions during February and March 2024, we had over 325 students attend each breakfast. Lineups for the program started 45 minutes before we opened for service. Students were very excited and happy to have access to a healthy meal to start their day.

The SFSS and the SFU student body have greatly benefited from the funding from Acuitas and greatly appreciate the continued sponsorship from Acuitas once again.

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 2024 Welcome Month".

