

Call to Order – 4:36 pm, October 1, 2014 | Forum Chambers

1. Appointment of the Chair

MOTION COUNCIL 2014-10-01:01

Chapman

Be it resolved to appoint Kathleen Yang as the Council Chair for the Fall 2014 semester.

CARRIED

The Council acknowledged that the meeting was being conducted on the Unceded Coast Salish Territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, Stó:lo, and Tsleil-Waututh people.

2. Roll Call of Attendance

SFSS Directors (*non-voting*)

President..... Chardaye Bueckert
Vice President External Relations Darwin Binesh
Vice President Finance..... Adam Potvin
Vice President Student Life Kayode Fatoba
Vice President Student Services Zied Masmoudi
Vice President University Relations Moe Kopahi
At-Large Representative Rebecca Langmead
At-Large Representative Jeremy Pearce
Faculty Representative (Applied Sciences) Ben Rogers
Faculty Representative (Arts & Social Sciences)..... Brady Wallace
Faculty Representative (Business) Shadnam Khan
Faculty Representative (Communication, Art & Technology)..... Shirin Escarcha
Faculty Representative (Education) Katie Bell
Faculty Representative (Sciences) Deepak Sharma

Student Union Representatives

*New Councilors that need ratification will be denoted ****

Archeology Madisen Hvidberg
Arts and Social Sciences Blossom Malhan
Biology Gurinder Saroya*
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Debbie Wong
Business David Chapman
Business
Chemistry Pipeesh Gaind*
Cognitive Science..... Aaron Richardson
Communications Gino Cutri
Computing Science..... Rahman Kadirin
Criminology Erwin Kwok
Dance
Earth Science Gleb Moiseyenko (*late*)
Economics..... Michael Straw
Education..... Melissa Lee
Engineering Michael Fujiwara
English Stephanie Hall*

Environmental Science	
French	
Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.....	
Health Science	
History	Brandon Matheson
Humanities	
Interactive Arts and Technology	Amanda Poh
International Studies	Verena Bachi*
Labour Studies.....	
Linguistics	Gloria Mellesmoen
Management System Science	
Mathematics	Charles Turo*
Mechatronics System Engineering	Gursher Sidhu
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry.....	Marija Jovanovic
Operations Research	Michelle Baillet
Philosophy	Karen Abramson*
Physics	
Political Science	Kathleen Yang
Psychology	
Sociology and Anthropology.....	
Statistics and Actuarial Science	Grace Lam
Sustainable Community Development	
Theaters	
Visual Arts	
World Literature.....	
Constituency Group Representatives	
First Nations Student Association (FNSA)	Maren Thompson
Out on Campus Collectives (OOC)	
Students United for Disability Support (SUDS)	Anthony Janolino (<i>late</i>)
Residence Hall’s Association (RHA)	
Women Centre Collectives (WCC).....	Anjali Biju
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)	
Society Staff	
Build SFU General Manager.....	Marc Fontaine
Build SFU Administrative Assistant.....	Michelle Robertson
Campaigns, Research, and Policy Coordinator	Pierre Cassidy
Communications Coordinator.....	Stijn Daenens
Minute Taker	Dion Chong
Guests	
Behavioral Neuroscience.....	Lukas Grajauskas
Behavioral Neuroscience.....	Sandon Vickerman
Member.....	Jason Wang
IATSU	Maheen Sohail
Regrets	
Business	Jessica Gutierrez
Geography.....	Jared Busse

Faculty Representative (Health Sciences).....Ayla Kooner

Absent

International Student Group (ISG) Rahul Rajanala

3. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION COUNCIL 2014-10-01:01

Fujiwara

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted as amended

Fall referendum motion removed, SASS announcement added

CARRIED AS AMENDED

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MOTION COUNCIL 2014-10-01:02

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Be it resolved to receive and file the minutes of 2014-07-30

POSTPONED TO NEXT COUNCIL

Richardson

5. Guest Speakers/Presentations

a. The SFSS Annual General Meeting and the Student Union Building

October 22 – 1:30pm – SFU Theatre

The AGM is the ultimate source of authority within the SFSS. The AGM allows the membership to take a direct active role in the governance of the organization, presenting its own motions, and reviewing the governance structure of the organization. The AGM also allows the organization to present itself in its varied capacities and areas of work to the membership. The annual report, Vice President Finance's report, and the auditors report are received at this time. In addition, the AGM provides the organization with the mandate to begin major projects.

Janolino entered at 4:48pm

The Council was provided with a primer on the Build SFU project and the status of the project.

The AGM this year would include two special resolutions: the approval of debenture and addition of bylaw.

Students currently were paying a low amount to contribute to the Build SFU project. In order for the project to be built as soon as possible, the Student Society had to be authorized to take out a loan (the debenture). Build SFU has been negotiating with banks to positive response. In order for the project to continue on schedule, it was imperative that quorum is met at the AGM. The Society Act demands that the SFSS requests the permission to pursue a debenture within a one year period, and until the design and development of the project was complete, it was not feasible to secure a loan prior to this point in time.

When banks are offering loans, it was necessary for mechanisms to be in place to repay the loan. The bylaw addition would provide assurance to banks that the SFSS would not change the levy while a loan was being paid off. Over time, the Student Society should be able to pay off the loan faster.

The government reporting entity structure does not allow the university to cosign the loan, which has presented unique challenges to the financing of the project.

250 undergraduate members were necessary to meet quorum, and 75% majority vote in favour was necessary for the two special resolutions. The Council was reminded that the support of the various student unions and constituency groups were imperative for the Society to deliver the space that students have been requesting.

6. Elections, Appointments, Resignation and Excuses

a. Ratification of Regrets

Excuses or regrets will be kept track of by the chair of council. Missing two meetings in a row without sending excuses (that are approved) will result in the removal from Council.

MOTION COUNCIL 2014-10-01:03

Chapman

Be it resolved to ratify the regrets from:

Geography..... Jared Busse (*illness*)
Business Jessica Gutierrez
Faculty Representative (Health Sciences).....Ayla Kooner

CARRIED

b. Appointments to Council

MOTION COUNCIL 2014-10-01:04

Lee

Be it resolved to ratify the appointment of the following Councilors:

BiologyGuinder Saroya
Chemistry Piperesh Gaind
EnglishStephanie Hall
International Studies Verena Bachi
Philosophy Karen Abramson
Mathematics Charles Turo

CARRIED

c. Appointments to Committees

MOTION COUNCIL 2014-10-01:05

Jovanovic

Be it resolved to open nominations for vacant Councilor positions on SFSS committees.

CARRIED

The Council was provided with the meeting schedule of the SFSS Committees.

MOTION COUNCIL 2014-10-01:06

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Be it resolved to close Councilor nominations and appoint the following Councilors to the respective SFSS Committees:

Advocacy Committee – Michael Fujiwara

Build SFU Student Advisory Committee – Maren Thompson

Commercial Services Committee – Charles Turo

Constitution and Policy Review Committee – Marija Jovanovic,
Gursher Sidhu

Events and Promotions Committee – Blossom Malhan, Erwin Kwok

Extended Health and Dental Plan Committee – Madisen Hvidberg

Finance and Administrative Services Committee – Gursher Sidhu

Granting Committee – Stephanie Hall

Student Space Oversight Committee – Gursher Sidhu

7. New Business

a. Behavioural Neuroscience Student Society

BNS students study within both the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and thus lacked community, particularly since students were not declared within the programme until the second year. The programme was relatively new (6 years) but was projected to grow. There was a desire for a DSU in BNS to compliment the work of the existing BPK and Psychology student unions by providing specialized programming, as well as support communication with prospective BNS students.

Question was raised on how to define the membership given that students were not taking courses within BNS. Completion of programme requirements in the lower levels may be used to define the membership. A constitution had been prepared in collaboration with the Student Union Resource Office.

MOTION COUNCIL 2014-10-01:07

Chapman

Be it resolved that the Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society be recognized as a departmental student union of the Simon Fraser Student Society.

Be it further resolved that the Behavioral Neuroscience Student Society be allocated a voting seat at Council.

CARRIED

Chapman left at 5:28pm

8. Discussions

a. Open Textbook Campaign Update and Callout for Departmental Curriculum Committee Representatives

The provincial government is creating free open textbooks for the 60 most popular university courses within the province. Students have saved over \$100,000 at other institutions across BC. The SFSS has raised a question within the university senate and has met with the Faculty Association and the SFU VP Academic to promote the usage of open textbooks at the university. A petition was also being circulated amongst the membership to push for greater Faculty adoption of the initiative. Many DSUs have appointed a departmental curriculum committee representative, and thus Department Student Unions were being requested to bring the issue to the respective curriculum committees and push for the usage of free textbooks. This was offered as an opportunity to enhance the student experience collaboratively with the Board of Directors, DSU/FSUs, and the university.

The Council would be provided with an information package by the Advocacy Committee campaign leads, including a cross-referencing of available open textbooks to equivalent SFU classes.

9. Other Business / Announcements / Notice of Motions

a. Education Student Association – Dodgeball Event

ESA was to host a dodgeball event at the end of October, and invited groups to get involved and potentially running a joint tournament. Interested parties could contact the SFSS Education Representative for more information.

Council was reminded that Councilor emails should be available on the SFSS website.

b. SASS Academic Journal and Survey

SASS was putting together an Arts and Social Sciences academic journal. Assistance was sought for submissions and editors, particularly representation from first year students. As part of Arts Week the following semester, an academic conference would be convened for students who had submitted pieces for the SASS journal.

Career options survey – a short survey was being circulated to gauge opinions on desired career opportunities and types of exhibitors on campus, given the limited focus on careers within the arts and social science spheres during SFU convened career fairs.

10. Attachments

[NSS] departmental statement of support.pdf
BNEURO MAJOR planner.pdf
NeuroScience Student Society Constitution (final).pdf

11. Adjournment 5:37pm

Neuroscience Student Society

Constitution and Bylaws

(Final drafted August 27, 2014)

Constitution

1. The name of the organization shall be the Neuroscience Student Society
2. The purposes of the Neuroscience Student Society shall be:
 - a. To advocate within the school and community for the interests neuroscience students
 - b. To act as a forum in which SFU students interested in neuroscience can engage with one another, seek guidance from peers, and share ideas and experience.
 - c. To assist students in exploring potential careers in neuroscience
 - d. To actively promote neuroscience in the school and community.

Bylaw I - Interpretation

1. "SFU", and "the school" shall mean "Simon Fraser University"
2. "NSS", "the Society" and "the Student Society" shall mean "Neuroscience Student Society"
3. "BNS" shall mean "Simon Fraser University's Behavioural Neuroscience Major or Honours program"
4. "BPK" shall mean "Simon Fraser University's Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology Department"
5. "Psychology" shall mean "Simon Fraser University's Psychology Department"
6. "VC-ER" shall mean "Vice-Chair, External Relations"
7. VC-IO" shall mean "Vice-Chair, Internal Operations"

Bylaw II – Membership

1. Membership within the NSS shall be automatically extended to registered SFU undergraduate students who are:
 - a. Enrolled in SFU's Behavioral Neuroscience Major or Honours program.
 - b. Listed as an intended BNS major.
 - c. Enrolled in at least one course listed in the Behavioral Neuroscience Major Program Plan, or Behavioral Neuroscience Honours Program Plan.
2. Members that meet the requirements outlined in Bylaws II.1 may be considered as a member in bad standing by the NSS through a majority vote at a quorate general meeting if they are deemed to have committed the following:
 - a. Dangerous, discriminatory, or offensive behavior at a NSS event or meeting.
 - b. Dangerous, discriminatory, or offensive behavior in any circumstance, including in online or print mediums, that is judged harmful to the reputation of the NSS.
 - c. Theft or Damage of NSS property
 - d. Disqualification from a NSS election or by-election
3. A member with a bad standing status shall not be able to participate in all NSS events or activities or elections.
4. Revocation of the status of member in bad standing can be considered at the NSS's AGM, upon appeal by the affected member, or another NSS member in good standing. This shall be put to a majority vote within the membership, and the status of the membership shall only be reinstated if:
 - a. New information about the events that resulted in the removal of the member come to light
 - b. The executive has been found to have erred in their interpretation of Bylaw II.4.
 - c. The membership finds the member in bad standing has demonstrated extensive commitment to rehabilitation, or has recompensed for whatever damages they may have caused.

Bylaw III – Executive Committee

1. The composition of the executive committee shall be
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair, Internal Operations
 - c. Vice-Chair, External Relations
 - d. Councillor
 - e. Departmental Committees Representative
2. An executive may simultaneously hold a chair and a representative position, but within NSS executive and general meetings will still only be afforded the voting power of a single executive.
3. Powers, Duties and Obligations of the executives:
 - a. All Executives shall:
 - i. Be committed to hold their position for one full year, or in the event the position is filled in a by-election, until the date of the regularly scheduled election.
 - ii. Maintain good academic standing during the terms which they serve as executives.
 - iii. Take action to maintain the longevity and long term sustainability of the organization, including but not limited to maintaining and creating transition documents.
 - iv. Conduct themselves in respectable manner, acting as positive role models, and avoiding any dangerous, discriminatory, or offensive behavior, including in online or print mediums.
 - b. The Chair shall:
 - i. Be responsible for, with input from the rest of the executive committee, steering the organization's overarching goals and priorities for the both the Chair's term and the foreseeable future.
 - ii. Be responsible for calling and chairing NSS general and executive meetings.
 - iii. Prepare and distribute meeting agendas in accordance with Bylaw IV.
 - iv. Act as primary spokesperson for the NSS within the school, SFSS and (world at large) exclusive of the jurisdiction of the Forum Representative, and Departmental Committees Representative, as outlined in Bylaws III.3.e and III.3.f
 - v. Be a signing officer
 - c. The Vice-Chair, Internal Operations shall:
 - i. Be responsible for maintenance of the records, contacts, and schedules of the organization.
 - ii. Record the minutes of each of the organization's regular and annual general meetings, and distribute them within 48 hours of the meeting
 - iii. Keep a record of the organizations account transactions, and supervise expenditures and monetary assets.

- iv. Be a signing officer
 - v. Track and maintain the organizations physical assets.
 - vi. Act as chair for meetings if the organization chair is unable to attend.
- d. Vice-Chair, External Relations shall:
 - i. Advertise events planned by the organization.
 - ii. Create advertising and promotional materials for the organization, or overseeing their production.
 - iii. Create and maintain the organizations website and social media accounts.
 - iv. Update the content of the web and social media platforms that represent the organization.
 - v. Liaise with external organizations when the NSS is seeking partnerships or sponsorship.
- e. The Council Representative shall:
 - i. Regularly attend SFSS council meetings
 - ii. Advocate for the needs of the organization and its membership during council meetings.
 - iii. To inform the NSS executive and membership of any meaningful information covered during the SFSS council meetings
- f. The Departmental Committees Representative shall:
 - i. Regularly attend all departmental meetings that the NSS deems relevant
 - ii. Represent the interest of the NSS and its membership during departmental meetings.

Bylaw IV – Meetings

1. Resolutions passed at the meetings shall be governed by a simple majority vote
2. Roberts’s rules of order shall be used at the discretion of the executives.
3. General Meetings
 - a. The organization must hold at least one quorate general meeting per semester.
 - b. Quorum shall be 6 members in good standing.
 - c. Two weeks’ notice shall be given for general meetings, and notices shall clearly state date, time and location.
 - d. Agendas shall be distributed no later than 72 hours before the meeting.
 - e. All members in good standing are entitled to attend and vote at general meetings.
 - f. The first General Meeting shall be held within the first month of the semester.
 - g. General meetings will be called by the chair, or can be convened upon resolution of two-thirds of the executive, or as a result of a petition signed by at least 10 members in good standing of the general membership.
 - h. At least once per semester at a general meeting, the organizations budget will be presented to the general membership
 - i. Expenditures over \$100 made on behalf of the organization must be approved in general meetings.
4. Executive Meetings
 - a. The organization shall hold executive meetings as needed, and quorum shall be the majority seat filled.
 - b. Executive meetings shall be open to all members, with the exception of in camera sessions, however only executives shall have voting privilege at executive meetings.
 - c. Minutes of the executive meetings shall be made freely available to the general membership.
 - d. The chair will be responsible for calling executive committee meetings, and shall give 48 hours notice of the meeting time. Notice shall be communicated to all the membership, and agendas shall be made available no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting time.
 - e. Expenditures below \$100 made on behalf of the organization may be approved in executive meetings.

Bylaw V – Elections

1. Candidates nominated for office shall be members in good standing as outline in Bylaw II of the NSS
2. Elections shall be held at a general meeting in the third or fourth month of the spring semester.
3. Candidates will take office at the beginning of the summer semester. and the time between the election results and end of semester will serve as a training period.
4. Elections shall be announced in the notice of general meeting where the elections are to take place. Nominations shall be open from the time of notice until the election is to take place.
5. All members in good standing are eligible to vote, and the election shall be held by secret ballot at the general meeting where the election is to take place.
6. In the event the NSS fails to elect a member to one of the executive position, the powers, duties, and obligations of the empty executive position can be reallocated between the elected executives as the executive committee sees fit. This re-allocation of powers, duties, and obligations will be outlined in a standing order, adopted by the executives, which will exist until the empty executive position is filled. Alternatively the executive may appoint a member to the vacant position. This appointment will last until the position is filled at any general meeting where a by-election may be held.
7. A candidate may run for two positions in the executive committee, but the position of chair shall not be shared.
8. If only one valid nomination is received for a position, then the election will be held by a yes/no vote, requiring that two thirds of the votes indicate the affirmative.
9. A candidate may request a recount before the adjournment of the meeting where the election takes place.

Bylaw VI - Abandonment and Impeachment

1. Any executive who misses three consecutive meetings (executive or general), or more than one third of the meetings in a semester without sufficient justification will have been deemed to have abandoned their post and the position will be declared vacant.
2. Executives may be impeached by a motion presented at a general meeting which receives majority support from the members present. The vote will be conducted by secret ballot, and notice of the impeachment motion must be given on the meeting agenda.

Bylaw VII – Constitutional Amendments

1. This article shall not be altered except with the prior written consent of the Simon Fraser Student Society
2. Amendments can be proposed by either an executive or a general member.
3. Voting on proposed amendments must take place at a regularly scheduled general meeting.
4. Notice of amendment must be included in the agenda of the general meeting in which the amendments will be voted upon, and the content of the proposed amendment shall be included.
5. Amendments to the constitution require a two thirds majority vote of quorum.
6. Upon receiving two thirds affirmative votes in favor of amendment, an executive member shall submit the new constitution to the SFSS Organiser for final ratification.

Bylaw IIX – Dissolution

1. In the event that the Society becomes inactive, all assets of the Union revert to the Simon Fraser Student Society to be held in trust for a minimum period to two years. For the purpose of this article, the Society shall be deemed inactive if the membership does not hold the minimum number of quorate general meetings as required by this Constitution for two consecutive semesters.
2. If the Society is regenerated to represent the interests of students within the Program during this period, the trust shall be dissolved and all assets shall be at the direct disposal of the Society.
3. After two years, if the trust has not been dissolved, the Simon Fraser Student Society may dispose of the assets as it sees fit.

Behavioral Neuroscience Major Program

Co-operatively offered through the Department of Psychology and the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology

NAME: _____

SEMESTER MAJOR APPROVED: _____

STUDENT NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

Students must obtain a grade of C or higher in all required courses and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average to remain in the program

LOWER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

CORE COURSES:

- ___ **BISC 101** - General Biology (4)
- ___ **CHEM 121** - General Chemistry and Laboratory I (4)
- ___ **CHEM 122** - General Chemistry II (2)
- ___ **CHEM 281** - Organic Chemistry I (4)
- ___ **BPK 142** - Introduction to Kinesiology (3)
- ___ **BPK 205** - Introduction to Human Physiology (3)
- ___ **BPK 207** - Human Motor Systems (3)
- ___ **MATH 154** - Calculus I for the Biological Sciences (3) (or MATH 150 or 151)
- ___ **MATH 155** - Calculus II for the Biological Sciences (3) (or MATH 152)
- ___ **MBB 201** - Biochemistry of the Cell (3) (or MBB 221 or 231)
- ___ **PHYS 101** - Physics for the Life Sciences I (3) (or PHYS 120 or 125 or 140)
- ___ **PHYS 102** - Physics for the Life Sciences II (3) (or PHYS 121 or 126 or 141)
- ___ **PSYC 100** - Introduction to Psychology I (3)
- ___ **PSYC 102** - Introduction to Psychology II (3)
- ___ **PSYC 201W** - Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology (4)
- ___ **PSYC 210** - Introduction to Data Analysis in Psychology (4)
- ___ **PSYC 221** - Introduction to Cognitive Psychology (3)
- ___ **PSYC 280** - Introduction to Biological Psychology (3)

WQB AND ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS:

17 credits of electives from any subject, either lower or upper division. Must include at least 6 credits of B-Hum.

UPPER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

CORE BPK COURSES:

- ___ **BPK 305** - Human Physiology I (3)
- ___ **BPK 306** - Human Physiology II (3)
- ___ **BPK 325** - Basic Human Anatomy (3)
- ___ **BPK 426** - Neuromuscular Anatomy (3)

9 UNITS FROM ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(3 UNITS MUST BE FROM BPK 415, 116, OR 448)

- ___ **BPK 336** - Histology (3)
- ___ **BPK 407** - Human Physiology Laboratory (3)
- ___ **BPK 415** - Neural Control of Movement (3)
- ___ **BPK 446** - Neurological Disorders (3)
- ___ **BPK 448** - Rehabilitation of Movement Control (3)
- ___ **BPK 461** - Physiological Aspects of Aging (3)
- ___ **BPK 496** - Directed Study I * (3) (or 498)

* BPK 496 & 498 must be relevant to Behavioral Neuroscience

CORE PSYCHOLOGY COURSES:

- ___ **PSYC 300W** - Critical Analysis of Issues in Psychology (3)
- ___ **PSYC 381** - Behavioral Endocrinology (3)
- ___ **PSYC 382** - Cognitive Neuroscience (3)
- ___ **PSYC 388** - Biological Rhythms and Sleep (3)

9 UNITS FROM ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ___ **PSYC 303** - Perception (3)
- ___ **PSYC 330** - Attention (3)
- ___ **PSYC 335** - Sensation (3)
- ___ **PSYC 383** - Psychopharmacology (3)
- ___ **PSYC 386** - Laboratory in Behavioral Neuroscience (4)
- ___ **PSYC 387** - Human Neuropsychology (3)
- ___ **PSYC 480** - Selected Topics in Biological Psychology I (4)
- ___ **PSYC 482** - Selected Topics in Biological Psychology II p(4)
- ___ **PSYC 491** - Selected Topics in Psychology (3)
- ___ **PSYC 493** - Directed Studies (3)

3 UNITS OF UPPER DIVISION ELECTIVES (ANY DISCIPLINE):

GRADUATION GPAs:

- CGPA of 2.5 or higher
- UDCGPA of 2.0 or higher
- BPK Cum GPA of 2.0 or higher
- BPK UD GPA of 2.0 or higher
- PSYC Cum GPA of 2.0 or higher
- PSYC UD GPA of 2.0 or higher



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August 17, 2014

Re: Neuroscience Student Organization

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in my capacity as Co-director of SFU's Behavioral Neuroscience program to indicate my support for the formation of a Neuroscience Student Organization. A student in the program recently approached me to discuss the possibility of a student union, and after this meeting, I feel that there is a need for its creation. Several students involved in this project have begun to plan and build networks throughout the involved faculties, as well as within the SFSS, and I believe they are well prepared and should be recognized as an official organization.

SFU's Behavioral Neuroscience program is small and relatively new, but some of its unique aspects could necessitate the formation of a dedicated student organization. The program has about sixty declared majors, however there is no direct admission into the BNS program, so those declared only represent students in their second, third and fourth years. The Behavioral Neuroscience program was conceived as an interdisciplinary program combining relevant courses in both the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, and the Department of Psychology. As such, on top of the general science courses that students must complete in their first few years, upper division coursework spans two separate faculties. The majority of lower division classes are common to all science majors, and courses in psychology are large and run in conjunction with psychology majors, meaning that Behavioural Neuroscience students have little opportunity engage with their peers. Also, as an interdisciplinary program, students are required to seek the support from two separate academic advisors. Having an organization where lower division students could seek mentorship from peers who have shared their academic path would benefit them immensely.

Importantly, Behavioural Neuroscience students have spoken to me about their difficulty in connecting with their fellow peers, as well as issues pertaining to course availability and requirements. Together with my colleagues, I have tried to rectify many of the issues that arise. Furthermore, I am currently trying to increase the profile of this program, and having a student organization to help with this aspect and the issues that arise within the program would be greatly beneficial. As this program grows, having an organization dedicated to Behavioural Neuroscience students would also allow faculty a forum to better engage with its students and seek their input in regards to the direction of the program as it expands.

Overall, a great number of people would benefit from this student organization, and with the leadership that these students have demonstrated, I feel that they are well positioned for success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Marigold, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology
Simon Fraser University