

# Fall 2015 Report

## Preamble

*Due to my prior experience from being a member of the Board last year, I was very much so aware of how fall semester is the busiest semester of the year. Further I did do my best to ensure I was prepared for the overload of work that does occur for not only myself but the entire SFSS during the month of September. As you'll see throughout my report I continuously praise the Board, staff, management, and most importantly the membership for contributing towards such a positive and successful Fall 2015 for the Simon Fraser Student Society.*

## Introduction

My report will provide a clear reflection of how the role I'm currently in is very multidimensional and ensures I'm involved in *all* avenue's of the SFSS. To ensure clarity, I've formatted my report into subsections, all reflecting a project or committee I've played an active role in throughout Fall 2015.

## Build SFU

Successfully advocating on behalf of the largest student led project in the nation was by far the most important accomplishment the SFSS and its membership worked together to achieve in Fall 2015. Without the support of all stakeholders involved within the SFSS, we would've not been able to secure financing for the Build SFU Stadium and Student Union Building. In Summer 2015 the Board decided to host the *Annual General Meeting* (AGM) at a very unprecedented time of year; only two weeks into the Fall semester (*September 22nd 2016*). The AGM was very important for the Build SFU project, as the AGM served as the opportunity for the project to secure funding. Due to prior history it seemed that successfully securing financing for Build SFU at the AGM was going to be difficult, especially since the date of the meeting was at such an unprecedented time. However with the hard work done by a *Dialogue group* made up of a diverse range of Board members. In addition to a campaign that was championed by President Enoch Weng, the Build SFU special resolutions successfully passed at the AGM which allowed for the Board to seek and secure financing for the project. As securing financing for the Build SFU project at the AGM was our Board's one and only priority, this Board should really praise themselves for prioritizing this and achieving this. Further I'm glad I was able to go above and beyond in contributing towards this organizational goal and

priority of the Board. I contributed through various ways, however I believe the strongest contribution I made was ensuring I continuously engaged with various student interest groups and networks. Assuring their attendance at the AGM and support of the Build SFU project was pivotal.

The approval of the Special resolutions the membership voted in favour of provides the Board till September 22nd 2017 to seek and secure financing for both the Stadium and Student Union Building. I praise all the work the Build SFU department, management, and members of the Board have done since the AGM to ensure we stay on a timeline which allows us to meet this September 22nd 2017 deadline. As a member of the Board and Executive committee, I've most definitely made my contribution towards the Build SFU project as needed. Shortly after the AGM, Board recognized the abundance of administrative work that was required do in order to seek and secure financing, in addition to working towards start of construction. The Board decided to appoint three members alongside management to sit on the Build SFU committee's that are made up of stakeholders from the SFSS and resources from SFU. When the conversation came to the Board table of appointing three members in addition to management to these Build SFU committee's, it was very difficult for me to not put my name forward to be appointed on these committee's. As I was appointed by the Board in my previous term and at the start of my current term to sit on the Build SFU Joint Steering and Building committee's. I had to recognize that although I'd bring an abundance of continuity and experience to the table, due to my current role as VP Student Life I would not have the capacity to sit on Build SFU committee's and perform all the other tasks and duties that come alongside my role. Which is why I felt comfortable appointing members with lighter portfolio's than mines to take part in these the Build SFU committee's. Thus far the three members appointed to the committee, alongside management have put in countless hours of work and it is evident in the progress the project is making. They've done an exceptional job at updating the Board at all times, and also have been exceptional at addressing all the time sensitive matters that have been constantly coming up. Due to all this positive progress I'm confident the Build SFU project will reach various milestones in the Spring semester and begin excavation on the Student Union Building site.

## Fall Kickoff

I had the privilege of being appointed *Project Manager* (PM) for the 2015 Fall Kickoff, which is a large scale welcome back event hosted on Friday September 25th. In my role as PM my main task and duty was managing six departments and work alongside the numerous external partners that were involved in this project. Further I had the difficult task of balancing the input I received from specific members of the Board and meeting industry standards to ensure a successful project. Fortunately with the support of my organizing committee, the Board, staff, and most importantly the membership, we were to able to host the most successful

and largest concert in SFU history. For more specifics please do request the *Fall Kickoff 2015 report* from me, however here's just a few of the milestones this year's project achieved:

- Over 2,000 tickets sold
- An volunteer data base
- Diverse range of artist's
- Strong retention program with the largest number of volunteers
- Securing close to \$40,000 in sponsorship

Even though this year's Fall Kickoff was the most successful event in SFU history, like any project it did come with its challenges and learning opportunities. I believe with the extensive report my organizing committee and I have put together, in addition to the success of this year's project. For years to come, it'll allow for the Fall Kickoff brand to continue growing as the largest membership engagement project the SFSS annually takes part in.

## Week of Welcome

With the support of President Enoch Weng, and the documentation left by last years FCAT representative, I was able to secure various outreach opportunities for the Board during SFU's *Week Of Welcome* (WOW). This would not of been possible without SFU's Orientation coordinator being willing to work with me. WOW is hosted during the first week of the semester, and is an SFU led project. Although I was able to work alongside SFU and secure various outreach opportunities, I'd like to see the SFSS involvement continuously grow during WOW. Eventually WOW should be something completely SFSS led project, similar to Clubs week. However it's very evident that at this time our organization does not have the capacity or resources to take on a project to this degree. Which is why I praise SFU for constantly hosting this event, and allowing the SFSS to actively participate in WOW through various ways.

## Clubs Day

Fall Clubs day in Burnaby campus was a prime opportunity for the Board to campaign for the Build SFU project. Further the General Office coordinators should be highly praised for the work they've done to make the process of booking tables for clubs day as efficient as possible. Also in Surrey campus Fall clubs day was held during the fourth week of September, instead of the third week of September simply due to the AGM being held at an unprecedented. My involvement in clubs day was to ensure their was various interactive opportunities at the Board of Directors table, in addition to Board members canvassing speaking to club executives and the membership. I'm very thankful this year's Board was very accommodating to the schedules I did provide them for clubs day, as it assisted in the successful outreach conducted

by the Board throughout the week of Clubs Day. Lastly, I'd like to thank the over 300 clubs and over 5000 members who took part in clubs day daily.

## Events and Promotions Committee

As chair of the *Events and Promotions Committee* (EPCOM), it's very pleasing to speak to the success of my committee in Fall 2015. Members of my committee should be praised for not only managing to host the most successful concert in SFU history, however continuously hosting events throughout the semester beyond just events at the Highland pub. Also this year's entire Board has been very involved in supportive of all the projects EPCOM is working on. Further this year's Board has made it a point to not only support EPCOM, but also not being shy to provide EPCOM constructive feedback so that our future events and projects are always improving in benefit of the membership. This is a precedent not set in past years, however once again speaks to the overall involvement and support this Board provides one another in comparison to previous years. In the Spring semester my committee and I will continue working towards a diverse range of projects and events.

## Advocacy Committee

I sit on Advocacy as an Executive member, and enjoy the work the committee has accomplished so far in the Fall. Although at times it became frustrating when the committee was unable to decide what campaigns to focus on, it just speaks to how passionate the committee is and committed towards a diverse range of causes. On behalf of the committee I attended *OpenCon 2015* a conference which brings the international community together, in addition to having a very low acceptance rate. There is currently a report being complied by VP University Relations and I regarding the conference, in addition to next steps. My attendance at OpenCon was stemming from my involvement with the Open textbook project. Further I attended a transportation lecture serious on behalf of the committee as well, the cost was minimal however the amount of information received was very resourceful. The information I obtained for the lecture series is something I look forward to bringing to the committee's attention in the Spring semester. As I've been throughout the year, I look forward to being an active member of the committee in the Spring semester.

## Granting Committee

I sit on granting as an Executive member, the committee is tirelessly works toward supporting student unions and clubs in the most consistent and equal manner.

## Governance Committee

This is one of the most exciting committee's I sit on, as the working being done by this committee is reshaping the SFSS towards a more efficient and successful future. The committee has been working hard towards recommendations for phase two of the *Governance document*, with consultations of the Board. Although I understand the importance of all the changes being made. I'm committed to ensure that all this change doesn't just lead towards the Board becoming a "rubber stamp" body that takes in no student input and is heavily management driven.

## Mens Programming Initiative

I called an *Mens Programming Initiative* (MPI) meeting once in the summer semester, and with the support of VP External Relation we called a meeting in the Fall semester as well. The MPI is working towards hosting an event on campus in the Spring semester.

## Executive Committee

Although not many formal meetings were called, as there was no need for them. This committee provided management direction throughout the semester on time sensitive and or confidential manners. I praise this committee for doing its utmost best in inviting the rest of the Board to come join in at our meetings if one was interested to do so.

## FASC

I sit on this committee as an Executive member as well. This committee only met once in the Fall semester, for the purpose of reallocating funds within the 2015-2016 budget.

## Council

As the liaison between Board and Council, which is the advisory body to the Board of Directors I attended all Council meetings throughout the Fall semester. In addition I liaised any information whenever requested by Council chair or Councilors. I do thank President and VP Student Services for supporting me in my liaison role for the one meeting I did not attend in the Fall semester, as I was out of town due to OpenCon 2015. Further with the recommendations provided by VP Student Services and receiving further feedback from Council, we've developed a process where I'll be providing a Board update presentation at every Council meeting.

## Emergency Food Voucher Program

As someone who was involved in the Emergency Food Voucher working group last year, it's very exciting to see this year's Board wanting to work on improving the program as well. My involvement in the Fall semester has been minimal to none, as the working group is currently going over steps the working group last year had already gone over. I look forward to being more active in this working group in the Spring semester.

## Surrey Campus Committee

The current Surrey campus liaison has been very accommodating to allow me to actively participate in the Surrey Campus Committee. It's very unfortunate, however we are still waiting for the SFU Surrey administration to provide us with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the SFU Surrey space expansion project. This is a project I did lots of work on during the summer semester, with the support of Surrey liaison, Board, and staff. As the SFSS has done its diligence and utmost best to increase study space on Surrey campus, at this point all we were able to do is continue to request SFU Surrey administration to provide the MOU we've both already agreed to over months ago.

## Conclusion

As previously mentioned my current role is very multidimensional and provides me with the opportunity to be involved in all avenues of the SFSS. Although it's a very fast paced and demanding role, I work tirelessly simply because I believe that I owe it to our membership. In the third and final semester of my term I look forward to continue all the positive work that's already being done, in addition to continue working towards showing the membership how valuable the SFSS really is in enhancing their university experience.