

**STUDENTS' UNION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 2022**



2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



**STUDENTS' UNION
OF VANCOUVER
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATION OF STUDENTS
LOCAL 16



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022

Executive Summary

Campaigns

- Presented to the Board of Governors and VCC Faculty Association asking them to endorse the Fund It Fix It campaign
- Highlighted OER Champions on campus
- Implemented 2-year Period Promise Pilot Project with VCC to provide free menstrual for free in all gender neutral washrooms on both campuses

Government Relations

- Presented to the 2022 Select Standing Committee on Finance: Budget Consultation
- Sent letters supporting the HEU's Care Can't Wait campaign and the HSA's End the Shortages campaign to local MLA's
- Submitted a letter to the Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review

College Relations

- Continued to fight for a cap on tuition fees increases of greater than 2% for International Students
- Signed the Okanagan Charter

Campus Life & Events

- Returned to in person events early in the year
- Held 12 events over the fall and winter semester including a year end Carnival

Internal Affairs and Finance

- Held a successful referendum to increase the membership fee by \$10 to provide increased services to all members starting Fall 2022
- Updated several Bylaws and Policies to better reflect the current work of the Students' Union

Services

- Added 6 new discounts to the Deals App
- Started the Tea Cart service at the Broadway campus
- Hired new staff person to increase Student Advocacy work

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Campaigns

Provincial Campaigns

Fund It, Fix It

The goals of the Fund it Fix it campaign are

- Freeze tuition fees at current levels
- Establish a plan to progressively reduce fees in the future
- To engage with on and off-campus groups and unions about the goals and to present to them the aims of the campaign
- To ask the above groups to officially endorse the campaign
- To garner media about the cost of education and;
- To lobby government by meeting with local Members of the Legislative Assembly.

On November 24 Chairperson Saini and Executive Director Sullivan presented the Fund it, Fix it campaign to the VCC Board of Governors with an ask for a formal endorsement of the campaign. The Board responded to the campaign with positive feedback however they stated that they had discussed the campaign prior to the presentation and decided they were not going to endorse the campaign because it is from an external organization.

On March 1 Chairperson Saini and Federation Chairperson Melissa Chirino presented the Fund it, Fix it campaign at the VCC Faculty Association's forum on public funding at VCC. The VCC Faculty Association formally endorsed the campaign on March 21.

Fairness for International Students

The goals of the Fairness for International Students campaign are:

- To mobilise domestic and international members to fight for fairness and predictability for international students
- To lobby the Institution for international student tuition fees to be limited and only increase as much as domestic students' tuition fees and;
- To collect stories from international students to personalize the issues for on- and off-campus advocacy.

At the Board of Governors meeting on November 24 the Board approved a 4% increase to international tuition for the 2021-22 academic year. The Students' Union has continually lobbied the Board of Governors and administration to stress that increasing the burden on international students is unfair and is not a sound long term strategy to address budget deficits.

During the year end carnival, the Students' Union collected stories and feedback from members to learn the perspectives and issues that current international students are facing both on and off campus. The Students' Union will continue to bring these issues forward at Board of Governors meetings and meetings with administration.

Open Textbooks Now!

The goals of the Open Textbooks Now! campaign are:

- Educate faculty and students about open educational resources (OER) and demonstrate support for adoption of and the creation of more OER and;
- Create and share content for Open Access Week and Open Education Week

During Open Access Week in October the Open Textbooks Now! Campaign was used to promote the adoption of OERS and raise awareness of OERs amongst the membership. The Students' Union made custom Halloween-themed postcards for members to sign and be delivered to program heads and Deans. The Institution has developed a grant program for faculty to apply for with various categories including, creation, adoption and adaptation of resources. The grant applications were approved for the spring and the funding was circulated in the spring and summer semesters.

During Open Education Week the Students' Union also showcased faculty who have adopted OERs at VCC in an "OER Champions" highlight on social media and the SUVCC website. From March 7-11 the Students' Union celebrated faculty who are OER Champions at VCC by sharing their experiences with Open Education and the value they bring to their courses.

Influence the Vote

The goal of the Influence the Vote campaign is:

- To increase youth and student voting in the Federal election

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During the September 2021 Federal election the Students' Union met with members to encourage them to vote and discuss the issues that were important to them. Some of the most common themes from these conversations were; affordable housing, childcare, the cost of post-secondary, and economic recovery.

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Local Campaigns

Moose Hide

The goal of the Moosehide campaign is:

- To end violence towards women and girls

On May 12 the Students' Union collaborated with the Indigenous Education Department and set up a table to raise awareness of the Moosehide campaign. The outreach included moosehide pins and button-making. A newsletter was also circulated in May to bring awareness to the day.

Period Promise

The goals of the Period Promise campaign are:

- The cost-free provision of menstrual products in all washrooms on campus paid for by the College and;
- The cost-free provision of menstrual products in all washrooms in all public buildings in the province

The Students' Union developed a pilot project with the College to bring menstrual products on campus and have them available in 15 washrooms. The pilot project is planned for 2 years and began September 2021. The goal of the project is to gather research for menstrual hygiene and product use on campuses and how access to free products reduces barriers for students and members of the campus community. The project is being co-funded by the Students' Union and the College with a goal of developing fundraising initiatives with the VCC Foundation throughout the first 2 years. Dispensers and supplies were ordered from Aunt Flow and were installed in gender neutral washrooms on both campuses in February.

From February 22-25 the Students' Union held a Menstrual Equity Week in collaboration with the College's Equity Diversity and Inclusion committee to promote Menstrual Equity on campus, and highlight and raise awareness of the new products available on campuses. The Students' Union circulated information about the Period Promise and the VCC collaboration with the Students' Union. Members could sign up for a Menstrual Kit with enough supplies to get them through a full menstrual cycle. The Menstrual Kit program was moderately successful.

Equity

The goals of the Students' Unions equity campaigns are:

- Raise awareness on issues faced by women and members of the LGBTQ+ community

During Transgender Awareness Week, held November 15 – 19 the Students' Union raised awareness of transgender issues on campus and held a pronoun button-making event on the Broadway campus to promote the conversation about pronouns.

Members were invited to make their own pronoun button and learn about the Unlearn Transphobia campaign.

On International Women's Day (March 8th) The Students' Union hosted an event promoting the Unlearn campaign materials and shared community resources with members. A gallery with images and biographies of influential women in history was created and showcased books about feminism, women, and women-authors that are available in the College library.

Consent Culture

On Valentine's Day the Students' Union shared resources with members about consent and worked with WAVAW (Women Against Violence Against Women) to share their resources in the community.

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Government Relations

Provincial Government Relations

Select Standing Committee on Finance: Budget Consultation

On August 31 The Students' Union presented to the Select Standing Committee on Finance for the 2022 Budget Consultation. The Local presented alongside the Emily Carr Students' Union, North Island Students' Union, and the Camosun College Students Society. The presentation included asks for a proper funding review and a new funding model for smaller institutions like VCC as well as support for housing, international tuition regulation, and affordability in BC.

Letters of Support

A letter was sent to Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA's) Melanie Mark and Brenda Bailey in support of the Hospital Employee Union's (HEU) campaign Care Can't Wait. (see Appendix A) the Care Cant Wait campaign is calling on the provincial government to fix the current crisis taking place in long term care facilities across BC. The campaigns is asking the Provincial government to:

- Make new care spaces public or non-profit – not operated by private companies.
- Fix the staffing crisis – with common standards for better wages, benefits and working conditions, no matter where you work.
- Stop the contracting out of care and support.
- Force private companies to follow regulations, meet standards, and increase transparency.

A Letter was sent to MLA's Melanie Mark and Brenda Bailey in support of the Health Sciences Association's (HSA) End the Shortages campaign (see Appendix B). The End the Shortages campaign is calling on the provincial government to support the over 70 specialized health professions that are part of the health care team by providing:

- Increased training to recruit more health science professionals to replace those retiring, getting sick or burning out; and
- Long-overdue pay increases to help retain health science professionals in BC struggling with the high cost of living.

Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review

In March 2022, the B.C. government announced a sector-wide review of how it funds operations at British Columbia's 25 public post-secondary institutions to ensure they have the resources they need to support economic recovery and student success. The current funding model has not been updated in more than 20 years and has created constraints and inequities for some public post-secondary institutions.

The review will help government develop an updated, modern funding model for British Columbia's public post-secondary system. It will aim to:

1. Establish a funding model that fairly and impartially distributes provincial financial resources across the public post-secondary sector.
2. Align provincial funding with the education and skills training needs of British Columbians and the communities served by the 25 public post-secondary institutions.
3. Support student success by ensuring access to affordable, high-quality post-secondary education and expanding key student supports.

In July the Students' Union made a submission to the Funding Review Group, along with 9 other student union across the province. The submission focused on advocating for a redistribution of funds within the post secondary system to;

- Ensure that the College can continue to run its programs without increasing fees or cutting corners by ensuring government funding reflects the actual costs of programs.
- Allow the College to improve its crumbling infrastructure for the benefit of students and staff

The College also made a submission and we were pleased to discover common ground between us on what needs to be done.

A copy of the Students' Union's proposal can be found in Appendix C.

Local Government and External Relations

The Students' Union donated \$500 to the United Way for emergency flood relief in the Fraser Valley caused by flash flooding in November 2021.

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College Relations

College Governance

Board of Governors

At the November 24th meeting the Board approved a 4% increase to international tuition. It was raised by the faculty representative that the issue of international tuition is something that is only going to get worse and has the potential to paint the institution in a bad light in the media.

At the February 9th meeting the Board approved a new Health Care Assistant program for international students with a tuition rate higher than any other institution in the lower mainland. The Students' Union raised this as a concern and the Board committed to the increase due to the budgeting issues they are facing. Many of the Board members stated that they must rely on international tuition to bridge the budget gaps and subsidize other costs.

At the March 30th meeting the Board reviewed the Institutions Indigenization Readiness Assessment & Planning Report that will help guide the process of indigenization and decolonization in response to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). At the same meeting, the Board of Governors approved the operating budget and capital budget for the 2022-2023 academic year, with a \$3 million deficit.

Education Council

During the 2021-22 Education Council election one of the College employees, who was also a student, was elected into a student representative position. The Students' Union has been investigating the potential for a conflict of interest and perspective of an employee filling this position. The Students' Union is pushing for a clearer definition of a student to ensure that only students of the College are able to sit on the Education Council in the Student seats.

The Education Council is working with the Indigenous Education department to expand seats to include Indigenous Representation on the Education Council.

Other College Committees and Initiatives

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group and Steering Committee

A pilot project was created to provide microgrants, which are small, one-time grants to VCC employees to support projects that enhance equity, diversity and inclusion at the college. Awards are up to \$500 and available for employees. The EDI committee launched a website both internal and external and are working on developing a tool for taking equity impacts into account when planning updates to websites, forms, curriculum design, events, and services. The sub committee of Safe Spaces is working to establish a physical or online space for individuals who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and/or deaf or hard of hearing. The sub-committee is also working to improve visibility of existing spaces such as the prayer rooms and breast feeding rooms.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee

The Institution released a Mental Health and Well-being Framework during its annual mental health and well-being event that took place on May 26. On April 14 Women's Representative Sarnoh signed the Okanagan Charter, An agreement to promote health and well-being at the College.

SUVCC also sits on the following College Committees

- Administration Policy Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Education Policy Committee
- Education Quality Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee
- Equity Spaces Sub- Committee
- Mental Health & Well-Being Steering Committee
- Operations Council

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Campus Life & Events

Events

2021 FALL WELCOME EVENTS

Welcome Days – September 8 & 9

The College cancelled welcome days because of the uncertainty surrounding Covid.

The Students' Union worked within the College's covid restrictions and policy to hold info tabling in place of welcome days. During info tabling, packaged snacks such as granola bars, apples, oranges and juice boxes were given, along with a water bottle that had a pen, highlighter and a sticker.

2021 FALL EVENTS

October 13: Mental Health Tabling

Board members and staff talked to students at the Downtown Campus and provided students with mental health resources

October 19: Spooky Guided Paint Night

This was the Students' Union's first in person event since the start of the pandemic! The event was very well attended, and board members enjoyed being able to interact with members and talk about work the students union was doing.

October 28: Spooky Halloween Movie Night

Board members tabled on the Open Textbooks Now campaign while students arrived for the movie night.

November 4: Diwali Festival

The Students' Union partnered with the College to give out free snacks at both campuses. Members were also encouraged to "write a wish" on a white board at the event. Both events were well attended and very appreciated by members.

December 7th & 8th: Stress Busters

During exam season the Students' Union provided stress buster activities to members. This consisted of holiday snacks (gingerbread cookies, hot coco, tea and candy canes), spin the wheel for a chance to win special swag, a holiday movie night and holiday themed guided painting.

2022 WINTER EVENTS

January 11: Services Day

The Students' Union showcased the different types of services to the membership. Board members provided information to the membership on the Deals App, Health and Dental, the member handbook, and water bottles.

January 26: Welcome Day

Board members gave out swag and talked about the services the Students' Union provides such as the Deals App, and the Health & Dental Plan.

February 1: Lunar New Year

The Students' Union celebrated Lunar New Year at both campuses for the first time. The International Education department also took part in the festivities by providing fortune cookies and lip balms. Board members created and handed out lucky red packets that contained lucky candy and well wishes to the membership. A few of the lucky packets contained special prizes that members could use to claim swag. The membership was also able to learn about Lunar New Year and their Zodiac sign.

February 14: Valentines Day

The Students Union connected with the VCC baking department and made a purchase of 300 handmade cookies. Board members packaged cookies and candy and handed them out to the membership. Board members also talked to members about the Let's get consensual awareness campaign and handed out safe sex kits. During the event, members were asked to write messages of love to share.

February 16: Midterm Stress Busters

Board members tabled at both campuses, handing out fresh fruit, granola bars and juice boxes to help motivate and provide energy for midterms.

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March 22: Bottled Water Free Day

The Students' Union celebrated bottled water free day at VCC by promoting sustainable habits and handing out ecofriendly and sustainable swag.

2023 SUMMER EVENTS

April 5 & 7: Year end Carnival

On April 5th and 7th the Student's Union held its Year End Carnival. Members got free food and snacks pizza, popcorn/popcorn machine, cotton candy, pop/juice and chips. There was a photo booth, and Red Bull was there giving away free drinks.

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Internal Affairs & Finances

Governance

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

BC Societies Act

The Students' Union maintains compliance with the College and Institute Act in order to ensure that its fees can be maintained by Vancouver Community College. The Students' Union was in compliance with the Act through the 2021-22 year.

College & Institute Acts

The Students' Union operates under the Societies Act of British Columbia and remained in compliance with the Act through the 2021-22 year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting

The Students' Union held its Annual General Meeting on October 19, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was quorate. Members received the 2020-21 Annual Report.

Special General Meeting

The Students' Union held a Special General Meeting on January 18, 2022 via Zoom in order to approve the 2020-21 Audited Financial Statements and approved bylaw changes. The meeting was quorate and well able to approve the Audited Financial Statements however it lacked the minimum members to approve bylaw changes.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS AND ORIENTATION

One election was held in the 2021-22 year. The Fall election ran from October 12-15 and was held online using ElectionBuddy. Five candidates ran uncontested, and 332 ballots were cast. There were no disqualifications.

A Board orientations was held after the election. Sessions held at the meeting taught Directors about the Students' Union's structures and finances, the legal responsibilities of directors, staffing and labour relations, and the regular responsibilities of directors.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Services Fee and Survey

In November the Students' Union released two services surveys: one for known service users, and one for the general membership. The purpose of the survey's was to collect relevant information around service usage and desired service improvements. The surveys were open for two weeks and in total had around 500 responses from members. Reports from the survey called for an increase in the number of services offered, with members specifically calling for cell phone charging stations on campus, an emergency food bank, discounted vending machines and an emergency aid fund.

A decision was made to explore the possibility of increasing the membership fee in order to provide the services members asked for in the surveys and improve the ones currently provided.

From April 5-7 a referendum was held asking the membership to increase the general membership fee by \$10 dollars. The referendum passed and the new fee was instituted in the 2022-23 Academic year.

The referendum also asked members if they wanted to make several changes to the bylaws. Two of those changes were approved and are listed below.

POLICY AND BYLAW UPDATES

Bylaw Updates

- Bylaw VII updated to allow for online voting as determined by the Electoral Committee
- All references to the Canadian Federation of Students- BC changed to the British Columbia Federation of Students.

Policy Updates

- New Policy organisation structure approved
- Finance Policy 20.01 adopted
- Services Policy 30.02 Student Financial Assistance and Food Security Services adopted
- Services Policy 30.04 Student Advocate adopted

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Staffing

REGULAR STAFF AND STAFFING CHANGES

In September, 2021 Brynn Joyce took the position of Organiser to cover a leave of absence of Phoebe Lo Patigdas. Brynn Joyce left the position of Services Coordinator vacant.

In September, 2021 McKenzie Hutchison was hired as the Services Coordinator to cover the vacancy left by Brynn Joyce.

In June Brynn Joyce took the position of Executive Director to cover a leave of absence of Sydney Sullivan

In June Gurbinder Gaidu took the newly created position of Organiser – Campaigns and Communications

In July Stefan Nielsen was hired for the newly created position of Organiser – Advocacy & Governance

Financial Management

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2020-21 Audited Financial Statement

The Students' Union's 2020-21 financial statements were prepared on time and audited prior to December 2021. The statements, along with the auditors report were presented at the Special General Meeting held January 18, 2022.

2021-22 Audited Financial Statement

Work on the 2021-22 financial statements will begin November 7, 2022/ The audited financial statements and report will be presented to the general membership in January 2023 at a Special General Meeting.

DUES COLLECTION

The Students' Union collects its fees through automatic assessment and collection by the Vancouver Community College in accordance with the College and Institute Act. The Students' Union also uses the same mechanism to collect fees on behalf of the BC Federation of Students

Students' Union Fees

The Students' Union fees were increased for the 2022-23 year to \$52 as per the referendum held in April 2022. The Students Union currently collects two fees from members;

Membership Fee: \$52 per semester (adjusted annually for inflation)

Accessibility Fee: \$2 per semester

BC Federation of Students' Fees

The Students' Union collects fees on behalf of the BC Federation of Students (BCFS) consistent with VCC students' membership in the Federation. In 2021-22, the fees for the BCFS were increased by the rate of inflation per the organization's bylaws. The BCFS fee is currently \$9.91.

Membership Communications

Newsletters/Print Media

Newsletters were sent out to the membership for the purpose of sharing information, giving notice for elections and meetings, promoting events and services, and raising awareness of the advocacy work that was ongoing. Approximately 30 newsletters were sent throughout the reporting period with an open rate between 60-65%.

Social Media

The Student's Unions Facebook and Instagram accounts are some of its primary modes of communication with members. Along with posting our own services, events, and campaigns, the Student's Union also shares content from the BCFS, VCC community and other important things on our story consistently. Our Instagram followers have increased from 700 to 1420 and on average posts reach around 300 students.

BC Federation of Students'

GENERAL MEETINGS

40TH Annual General Meeting (January 14 - 16)

The Students' Union sent nine delegates; Sarnoh, Ng, Yeung, Singh, Ors, Sahagun, Gaidu, Sullivan, and Joyce to the General Meeting. The meeting was held virtually and provided new learning opportunities. Delegates reported that the workshops and sessions were informative and useful.

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81th Semi-Annual General Meeting (July 14 - 17)

The Students' Union sent four delegates; Ng, Gaidu, Nielsen, and Joyce to the Semi-annual General Meeting. The meeting was held in person which was a refreshing change for delegates. Delegates reported that the workshops and sessions were excellent and very helpful in planning for the 2022-23 year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Between the start of the fiscal year and October 2021 the SUVCC representative on the Executive Committee was Hemvir Singh, Chairperson. Between October 2021 and the end of the fiscal year the SUVCC representative on the Executive Committee has been Dilara Örs, Director of Events.

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Services

Health And Dental Plan

Broker and Third Party Administrator

The Students' Union experienced a significant amount of difficulty in September when it was discovered that Greenshield had completely changed the member registration system and had provided little warning and no material explaining the new system. This led to a lot of confusion among members and the Services Coordinator who was unable to provide them with accurate information about the new system. It took over a week for Greenshield to provide proper instructions on how students could access the new system. Additionally, the lack of proper notice meant that the recently updated FAQ video was no longer up-to-date and had to be removed, leaving students with less ways to learn about their benefits. The Students' Union worked with the Services Coordinator of the BCFS to resolve the issue and reached an acceptable outcome.

Member Handbook and Dayplanner

The Students' Union produces its annual handbook through a service of the BC Federation of Students. The BC Federation of Students continually keeps the price stable, with handbooks arriving early in August every year in time for orientation and welcome back events

2021-2022 HANDBOOK

The Students' Union ordered 4000 member handbooks which arrived on time for the Fall. Handbooks arrived on time. The handbook continues to be one of the most popular and tangible services for members. The Students' Union has entered contract with CU Advertising to generate advertising revenue for the 2023-24 Handbook. The revenue generated will be used to offset the cost of producing handbooks.

Student Discount App

The Students' Union provides student discounts in coordination with the BCFS and other member local unions around the province through the Deals App. The Deals App is a free app for members which gives them access to discounts at business, restaurants, and services across BC.

Discount Solicitation

Over the summer Board Members worked hard to secure new discounts and renewals. One business renewed and 7 new business's were added to the Deals App. The new businesses were:

- Daddy's Kitchen Poke and Sushi
- Gram Cafe & Pancake Brentwood
- Hair Idol Salon
- Little Bangkok Thai Kitchen - International Village Location
- Little Bangkok Thai Kitchen - Port Moody Location
- P&D Store - International Village
- Steve's Poke - Brentwood

Promotion

The Students' Union primarily promoted the Deals App online through social media and the SUVCC App. Upon returning to campus the Deals App has been promoted through tabling, posters, and in the Members' Handbook.

Membership Development and Member Supplies

FALL 2021 MATERIALS

In the summer 2021 semester, the Students' Union ordered \$9,000 worth of swag items from the BC Federation of Students' ethical bulk purchasing service. This order included; reusable straws, toques, smart phone wallet, lanyards, basil plant kits, sweat shirts, stickers, highlighters, pens, and water bottles. Swag items are given out throughout the year at events and in the offices.

WINTER 2022 MATERIALS

A second order was placed in the Fall 2021 semester primarily for promotional materials to be used in the services referendum reported under Strategic Planning. These were specially branded items including; stickers, pencil cases, highlighters, and pens.

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UPASS

About the Program

U-Pass BC is a universal transit program offered by Vancouver Community College in partnership with the Students' Union of VCC, TransLink and the Province of British Columbia. U-Pass BC provides affordable access to public transit in Metro Vancouver for eligible students. Several post-secondary institutions have joined the program.

Students' Union Offices

Tea Cart

This year the Students' Union began a tea cart service for members. Board Members have been using the tea cart as an opportunity to connect with members and provide a cup of comfort on campus.

Printing Services

The Students' Union offers a free printing service, providing all students 150 pages of free printing accessible at the Broadway and Downtown campus offices. The service continues to be the Students' Union's most popular service, with the added benefit of connecting the students' union with members who normally would not have engaged with the students' union. Over 25,000 pages were printed by students in the 2021-22 year. The Students' Union also sells additional printing for \$5 per 100 pages.

Student Lockers

Lockers are available for rent at \$10 a semester on the second and third floors of Building A on the Broadway Campus.

Student Advocate

The Students' Union offers a Student Advocate to assist students when navigating system of the College. The Student Advocate can assist in grade appeals, conduct appeals, or mediate issues between the College, faculty, staff, and students. This service is free and confidential for members to use.

Yoga

The Students' Union provides free Yoga 1-2 times a month during the Fall and Winter semesters. During the 2021-22 year the classes slowly transitioned from online, as they were held during the height of the pandemic, back to in person at our Broadway campus office.

Legal Assistance Services

Members who are part of the Health and Dental plan can access experienced lawyers to guide them through most major types of law, including:

- Family
- Criminal
- Civil litigation
- Landlord and tenant
- Residential real estate
- Wills and Estates
- Tax, Employment
- Condo/Strata
- Immigration
- Identity Theft Support.

Members also have access to unlimited free summary telephone legal advice and unlimited referrals to local lawyers at preferred rates.

Members who are not part of the Health and Dental plan and who live in Greater Vancouver are eligible for 30 minutes of free written legal advice by a lawyer.

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Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – July 2021 – October 2021

a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director	Marcus Ng
Annacis Island Campus Representative	vacant
Broadway Campus Representative	Nicky Tran
Broadway Campus Representative	vacant
Chairperson	Hemvir Singh
Director of College Affairs	vacant
Director of Events	Ken Nguyen
Director of Internal Affairs	Jessica Yeung
Downtown Campus Representative	Harmanpreet Singh
Downtown Campus Representative	vacant
Indigenous Students' Representative	vacant
Queer Students' Representative	vacant
Women Students' Representative	Leanne Quong

b. Staff

Bookkeeper	Helen Huie
Executive Director	Sydney Sullivan
Organiser (on leave)	Phoebe Lo Patigdas
Organiser	Brynn Joyce
Organiser-Campus Life (on-leave)	Andy Oya
Organiser-Campus Life	Gurpinder Gaidu
Services Coordinator (on-leave)	Anthem Postnikoff
Services Coordinator	McKenzie Hutchison

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

a. Board of Governors

November 2020 to October 2021	Sahil Arora
November 2020 to October 2021	Ladan Sahraei

b. Education Council

November 2020 to October 2021	Julia Skye Summers
November 2020 to October 2021	Marcus Ng
November 2020 to October 2021	Natasha
November 2020 to October 2021	vacant

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – November 2021 – February 2022

a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director	vacant
Annacis Island Campus Representative	vacant
Broadway Campus Representative	vacant
Broadway Campus Representative	vacant
Chairperson	Ishaan Saini
Director of College Affairs	Marcus Ng
Director of Events	Dilara Örs
Director of Internal Affairs	Jessica Yeung
Downtown Campus Representative	Harmanpreet Singh
Downtown Campus Representative	Airan Sahagun
Indigenous Students' Representative	vacant
Queer Students' Representative	vacant
Women Students' Representative	Gabriel Sarnoh

b. Staff

Bookkeeper	Helen Huie
Executive Director	Sydney Sullivan
Organiser	Brynn Joyce
Organiser Campus Life	Andy Oya
Services Coordinator	McKenzie Hutchison

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

a. Board of Governors

October 2021 to September 2022	Ladan Sahraei
October 2021 to September 2022	vacant

b. Education Council

October 2021 to September 2022	Ishaan Saini
October 2021 to September 2022	Jessica Yeung
October 2021 to September 2022	Marcus Ng
October 2021 to September 2022	Poshak Sachdeva

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF –March 2022 – July 2022

a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director	vacant
Annacis Island Campus Representative	vacant
Broadway Campus Representative	vacant
Broadway Campus Representative	vacant
Chairperson	Ishaan Saini
Director of College Affairs	Marcus Ng
Director of Events	Dilara Örs
Director of Internal Affairs	Jessica Yeung
Downtown Campus Representative	Harmanpreet Singh
Downtown Campus Representative	Airan Sahagun
Indigenous Students' Representative	vacant
Queer Students' Representative	vacant
Women Students' Representative	Gabriel Sarnoh

b. Staff

Bookkeeper	Helen Huie
Executive Director	Sydney Sullivan
Organiser	Brynn Joyce
Organiser Campus Life	Andy Oya
Services Coordinator	McKenzie Hutchison

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

a. Board of Governors

October 2021 to September 2022	Ladan Sahraei
March 2022 to September 2022	Airan Sahagun

b. Education Council

October 2021 to September 2022	Ishaan Saini
October 2021 to September 2022	Jessica Yeung
October 2021 to September 2022	Marcus Ng
October 2021 to September 2022	Poshak Sachdeva

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Appendices

Appendix A: Hospital Employees Union – Care Cant Wait Letters



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022



February 10, 2022

Brenda Bailey

102 - 1012 Beach Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6E 1T8

Dear Brenda Bailey,

I am writing to you today, on behalf of the over 8,000 students represented by the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC), to express our support of the *Care Can't Wait* campaign by the Hospital Employees' Union's (HEU).

Seniors deserve the best care possible but too many residents in B.C.'s care homes are not getting the care they need. The long-term care system in BC is facing an immense amount of strain due to the privatization of services over the last twenty years. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed and exacerbated the fragilities of the system, causing seniors and workers to pay the price.

We applaud the commitment by your government during the last election to fix the long-term care and assisted living in our province. Starting with hiring more workers, and by holding private operators of long-term care homes to increased accountability for the public funding they receive, outlined within your mandate letter. But there is more work to be done to keep moving forward in the right direction.

Our Board of Directors voted in favour of endorsing the HEU's *Care Can't Wait* campaign. The SUVCC alongside student leaders across the province through the BC Federation of Students are in support of their calls to do more to create a long-term fix for BC's long-term care system:

- Make new long-term care spaces public and non-profit, not private;
- Fix the staffing crisis – and ensure the same standards for better wages, benefits and working conditions, no matter where staff work;
- Stop the contracting out of services in long-term care homes; and
- Force private companies to follow regulations, meet standards, and increase transparency.

The SUVCC advocates for a well-funded, public health care system and urge you to hold the government to their commitments in improving the province's long-term care system. *Care Can't Wait*.

Sincerely,

Ishaan Saini
Chairperson

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College | BC Federation of Students Local 16
2662-1155 E Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5T 4V5 | 604-443-8467 info@suvcc.ca suvcc.ca

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022

Appendix B: Health Sciences Association – End the Shortages Letter



February 10, 2022

Brenda Bailey

102 - 1012 Beach Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6E 1T8

Dear Brenda Bailey,

I am writing to you today to express our support of the Health Sciences Association's *End the Shortages* campaign, on behalf of the over 8,000 students represented by the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College.

It is widely recognized that doctors, nurses, and all specialized health professionals are struggling through this pandemic. Shortages of these health science professionals have been severe for years, even before the pandemic; these conditions are no longer sustainable. The long hours and crushing workloads are only part of the problem, many specialized professionals in BC are paid much less than in other provinces.

As a students' union, many of our members are future health care professionals and we urge the government to take immediate action to support our health care system, the people who keep it running, and the province's future health care professionals. We support your government's commitment to launching B.C.'s second medical school to expand our health care workforce outlined in your mandate letter and want to underscore the need for this effort to not only increase the number of doctor's and nurses available to BC's workforce, but to encompass all the health science professionals crucial to sustaining BC's health care system.

Our Board of Directors have unanimously voted to endorse the HSA's *End The Shortages* and it's calls for action:

- Increased training to recruit more health science professionals to replace those retiring, getting sick or burning out; and
- Long-overdue pay increases to help retain health science professionals in BC struggling with the high cost of living.

The critical shortage of health science professionals is putting patients at risk, and waitlists and backlogs are growing at alarming rates. We must take steps to alleviate the strain on our health care system and *End the Shortages*.

Sincerely,

Ishaan Saini
Ishaan Saini

Chairperson

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College | BC Federation of Students Local 16
2662-1155 E Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5T 4V5 | 604-443-8467 info@suvcc.ca suvcc.ca

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16
August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022



February 10, 2022

Honorable Melanie Mark

1070-1641 Commercial Dr
Vancouver, BC V5L 3Y4

Dear Melanie Mark,

I am writing to you today to express our support of the Health Sciences Association's *End the Shortages* campaign, on behalf of the over 8,000 students represented by the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College.

It is widely recognized that doctors, nurses, and all specialized health professionals are struggling through this pandemic. Shortages of these health science professionals have been severe for years, even before the pandemic; these conditions are no longer sustainable. The long hours and crushing workloads are only part of the problem, many specialized professionals in BC are paid much less than in other provinces.

As a students' union, many of our members are future health care professionals and we urge the government to take immediate action to support our health care system, the people who keep it running, and the province's future health care professionals. We support your government's commitment to launching B.C.'s second medical school to expand our health care workforce outlined in your mandate letter and want to underscore the need for this effort to not only increase the number of doctor's and nurses available to BC's workforce, but to encompass all the health science professionals crucial to sustaining BC's health care system.

Our Board of Directors have unanimously voted to endorse the HSA's *End The Shortages* and it's calls for action:

- Increased training to recruit more health science professionals to replace those retiring, getting sick or burning out; and
- Long-overdue pay increases to help retain health science professionals in BC struggling with the high cost of living.

The critical shortage of health science professionals is putting patients at risk, and waitlists and backlogs are growing at alarming rates. We must take steps to alleviate the strain on our health care system and *End the Shortages*.

Sincerely,

Ishaan Saini
Ishaan Saini

Chairperson

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2662-1155 E Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5T 4V5 | 604-443-8487 info@suvcc.ca suvcc.ca

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Appendix C: Post-Secondary Funding Formula Review Proposal



A True Community College: SUVCC's Vision for the future

This submission has been compiled by the Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, a member of the BC Federation of Students. SUVCC represents over 13,000 students in the Lower Mainland and has been doing so for over 45 years. We are committed to advocating for accessible post-secondary education for that is fully funded, publicly funded, and of the highest quality.

Vancouver Community College is a part of BC's strong post-secondary system. A system that provides a wide variety of course offerings all over the province with the ability to transfer those courses between institutions. This integrated system ensures that no matter where or what you are studying in BC, students are learning valuable skills and receiving a high-quality education.

Institutions like VCC however are suffering from a major problem in the sector: institutional funding. Between 2000 and 2016, the proportion of provincial funding decreased substantially in BC and as a result institutions have looked to students to fill the gaps in their budgets. In the last 50 years, the proportion of public funding to BC colleges and universities has dropped to 43.6% of total operating revenue; down from more than 80% in the 1980s and more than 90% in the 1970s. This constitutes a massive divestment in public education for the current generation of young people compared to the support provided to those who attended college and university in past decades.

This funding review is an excellent step in the right direction in terms of addressing the funding issue by ensuring we have a funding model that is fairly and impartially distributed across the province. Redistribution of the total funding allocation will not solve all the problems, but it is a very important step in the next evolution of the world class system of post-secondary education we have today in British Columbia.

VCC's Contributions to BC

VCC is a unique Post-Secondary Institution in the Lower Mainland as it still adheres as much as possible to the model of a community college, offering a wide range of programs, for the diverse population in the Lower Mainland. From vocational trades and degrees, programs for folks with disabilities, as well as Adult Basic Education (ABE) and new immigrant education. In fact, VCC is the only institution that offers ABE at fundamental levels (from beginner to Grade 8), which is essential to the success of many newcomers, refugees, and other British Columbians who have had an interrupted education.

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College • 250 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V5T 4V5

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VCC is trying to be a true community college. The programs VCC provides give folks a real opportunity to skill up and improve their quality of life with the education to work in, and contribute to, our communities in BC. As part of their training, VCC students and faculty offer low-cost, on-campus services to the public, including food services, hairstyling, esthetics, graphic design, auto repair, and dental care.

Institutions such as VCC provide the framework to train workers for the current and future labour markets of our province. By providing diverse programming students can return to school at any point in their life and adapt to changing trends in the market.

VCC alumni have been essential in holding the province together through the COVID 19 pandemic. Workers in fields such as transportation, health science, culinary arts and heavy mechanical trades have put the skills they learned at VCC to the test by keeping the public safe and healthy through extraordinary conditions.

Cost of Delivery

VCC as a public institution works hard to follow the mandate given by the ministry, providing a wide variety of programming already mentioned. These programs have a tremendous impact on BC's economy and in many cases the well-being of members of our society.

However, many of these programs are incredibly expensive to run, often significantly more than the average FTE at other institutions. Programs like ABE and LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada), the programs for students with disabilities, and trades programs require significant additional infrastructure and support that is not necessary for many other programs. Despite the increased cost of running these programs, VCC does not receive appropriate funding to cover those costs. This lack of appropriate funding puts additional strain on other supports at VCC including SUVCC. VCC's many trades programs also must often upgrade their curriculum and training to ensure that student graduate with the education required by various industry bodies such as the Industry Training Authority. Rarely do these requirements come with additional funding. Also, since VCC is providing training to such a diverse group of learners who have high needs, the services are stretched to their limits: accessibility services, counselling, international offices, childcare, tutoring supports all suffer from long wait-lists and are trying their best to meet the needs of students. All while fighting against VCC's aging infrastructure, these costs continue to vastly outstrip the funding received. Under the current funding model, VCC has lacked the resources to tackle facilities issues such as a lack of accessibility in many older parts of the Broadway campus, and a rodent problem that has plagued the Downtown campus for years.

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With no additional funding from the ministry, VCC is forced to look elsewhere to recoup those costs. More and more those costs are falling onto students. With the creation of additional fees, closing and re-opening programs to increase tuition and avoid the 2% cap on domestic tuition fee increases, and creating more international cohorts. While VCC's international students currently only make up roughly 15% of the population the fees they pay, which are often more than 3 times what domestic students pay, are used to offset VCC's deficit.

Future Impacts

Due to the nature of the programs it offers, VCC will be substantially affected by economic, technological, and demographic changes over the next 30 years. These will put enormous pressure on the services provided by VCC and the SUVCC and will require additional funding in order to grow and adapt to meet them.

Automation is projected to dramatically impact the labour force in British Columbia. Those workers who are affected will need re-training in new industries, and a very large portion of them will go to VCC to find that training due to the programs that are offered. Canada will also continue to attract more and more immigrants who will utilize the programs that VCC offers for either new training or to re-certify to be able to work in the fields they trained for in their country of origin. Not only will there be substantially increased enrollment, but many of these students will also be older. These older students will utilize services such as childcare more than younger students might.

Technological changes such as developments in clean energy, and electric vehicles will only increase in the coming years. Not only will this mean more enrollment from those wishing to enter the field it will require substantial re-training for existing fields. As standards and technology change it will also require considerable upgrades to the equipment used in programs such as Automotive Service in order to maintain industry certification. This will require more funding to do effectively.

VCC will also face increased costs for maintenance, infrastructure upgrades and software updates in the years to come. Due to the current deficit situation the institution faces, VCC has had to defer these projects into the future rather than tackling them in a timely manner. This delay will inevitably mean higher costs when they cannot be put off any longer.

Our Vision for Post-secondary education

As part of the BC Federation of Students, SUVCC wants to achieve a system of post-secondary education which is accessible to all, which is of high quality, and which is nationally planned; which recognises the legitimacy of student representation and the validity of students'

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rights; and whose role in society is clearly recognised and appreciated. Right now, our system over reliance on tuition fees cause numerous problems.

Vancouver Community College has been forced to make choices that will encourage enrollment above all else, which means we have seen:

- Over promotion of 'trendy' programs like business degrees over less desirable but still important programming
- Use of unscrupulous recruiters to get international students by any means necessary
- Reduction of language requirements to aid in the increased enrollment of international students
- Lack of support for departments who are less 'profitable' for the institution
- Increasing reliance on revenue from international student cohorts
- Continual deferral of maintenance, infrastructure upgrades, and program or software updates to balance the budget

In our view, the institutions in the post-secondary education system would be more cooperative than competitive by sharing more resources. Along with the funding model review, institutional governance should be reviewed to see if any institutions would be better served by being amalgamated to reduce redundancy and administrative overhead.

All in all, our view of the system is that there is a requirement for sustainable, predictable, funding that is regularly reviewed to ensure its meeting the needs of students. British Columbia provides world-class education in the province and significant investments have been made by government to ensure increasing access to education for all those who need it. However, it is now time for our funding model to be fixed so that we can continue building a system that works for everyone. Education is a crucial component to a happy and healthy community, society, and economy which needs to be prioritized appropriately.

Our vision for post-secondary would include a system that is rationally funded, with a funding model that aims to distribute resources considering an institutions regionality, mandate, course offerings, and student demographic. A re-distribution of resources would recognize the many contributions VCC makes to the community. It will allow them to not only continue on a more stable basis, but to grow in the future and be the community college we need.

Sincerely,

The Students' Union of Vancouver Community College Board of Directors

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