

Dear SFUFA Members:

The following bulletin is sent on behalf of the Faculty Association Executive and contains information on:

- President's Welcome
- Update on SFUFA Presidency
- Member social
- Bargaining update
- Reminder – alternate contacts

President's Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved break and spend time with family, friends, and colleagues before the start of a new academic year. A special welcome to our new members. We are delighted to have you join the SFU community, and we wish you every success as you settle into your new roles.

Unfortunately, over the summer, SFUFA President Tim Beischlag stepped down from his role for health reasons. On behalf of the Executive, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Tim for his leadership and service to the Association. We wish him all the best in his recovery.

The past year also marked the conclusion of the Executive service of Michael Hathaway (Sociology and Anthropology), Liliana Trajkovic (Engineering), and Claudia Wong Einwag (Linguistics). I would like to thank each of them for their many contributions and years of dedicated service to the Association.

Joining the Executive this year are Zara Anwarzai (Philosophy), David Broun (Physics), Alissa Greer (Criminology), Mark Lechner (Health Sciences), Carolyn Lejnak (English) and Dal Sohal (Student Learning Commons). Thank you for stepping forward to serve your colleagues. Returning members are Kumari Beck (Education), Jeremy Brown (History), Tamara O'Doherty (Criminology) and Chloe Riley (Library). I very much look forward to working with each of them.

As always, our work heavily relies on the dedication and expertise of the SFUFA staff. My thanks go to Executive Director Brian Green, Labour Relations Director Jennifer Scott, Labour Relations Officer Katie Gravestock, and Executive Assistant Melanie Lam, for all they do on behalf of members.

Over the coming year, we will need to pay close attention to a number of important issues. At SFU, these include bargaining and the development of the new medical school. More broadly, universities across Canada continue to grapple with the

opportunities and challenges presented by AI, increasing workload pressures, privacy concerns, and the erosion of collegial governance.

As Acting President, I am honoured to serve the Association until the end of the year. SFUFA is strongest when members are engaged, informed, and connected to one another, and I look forward to working with you to advance our shared interests and values. Thank you for the trust you place in the Executive and for the many ways you contribute to our academic community. If there is anything we can do to support you, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

On behalf of the Executive, I wish you all a healthy, productive and rewarding year ahead. I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead, beginning with our annual social on September 21st at Biercraft.

Sincerely,
Bertille Antoine, SFUFA Acting President

Update on SFUFA Presidency

SFUFA President Tim Beischlag has been required to step down from his role due to health issues that emerged over the summer. We are holding him in our thoughts every day, and are so grateful for all he did for the Association and for members in his term.

As Tim's Presidency was scheduled to end August 31st of 2027, the Executive has developed an interim plan for the remaining year.

Bertille Antoine, current Vice President, will serve as Acting President until December 31st of this year. As Bertille will be on study leave in 2027, the Executive has asked Jeremy Brown to serve as Acting President from January 1 to August 31 of 2027. Arrangements have also been to have Acting Vice Presidents (Jeremy Brown and Tamara O'Doherty) in place for each period.

As an Executive vacancy was opened due to Tim's need to step down, the Executive has asked Dal Sohal (Student Learning Commons) to join the group. As is our practice in these situations, the candidate from the previous election with the next highest number of votes (and willing to serve) is invited to join.

We will be seeking ratification of these acting appointments in the coming days. Please keep an eye on your emails.

Member Social

SFUFA will be hosting our first member social of the academic year on **Monday, September 21st, 4-7pm, at Biercraft**. While all are of course welcome for the whole social, we hope to prioritize new members over the first hour.

Please do join us to meet colleagues and enjoy some social connection.

Collective Bargaining Update

Bargaining teams for the Association and the Administration will be back at the table in September. While full teams did not meet over the summer months, there was ongoing discussion between teams, and smaller sub-groups did speak on several occasions to keep the process going. SFUFA submitted its latest proposals to the University on August 19th but we have not yet had any response.

Reminder – Alternate Contacts

Given periodic disruption of SFU's internet and email systems, the Association is collecting alternate contacts (email or phone) for members, to be used only in the event that we need to reach you during a time that the University's communications systems are not functioning. Members can send alternate email addresses and/ or phone numbers to SFUFA Executive Director, Brian Green, at <mailto:bsgreen@sfu.ca>