First Nations Studies Student Union Constitution
(Finalized as of September 23, 2016, 11:50am at Fall 2016 General Meeting)

The First Nations Studies Student Union (FNSSU), and much of its efforts, initiatives and activities, will take place on Unceded Coast Salish Territories, which to the best of our current knowledge includes homelands belonging to X̱məθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Sel̓íl̓witulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and Kwikwetlem Peoples.

A. Name
The name of the union is the First Nations Studies Student Union or FNSSU.

B. Objectives
The objectives of the FNSSU are as follows;
1. To promote and represent students and their interests within the Department of First Nations Studies (FNS), the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), and Simon Fraser University (SFU).
2. To promote the welfare and interests of First Nations Studies students to the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS).
3. To stimulate interest and further learning of First Nations Studies.
4. To respect all views and opinions of the members of the FNSSU.
5. To undertake initiatives and activities to benefit the members of the FNSSU.
6. The FNSSU is constituted as the Departmental Student Union as defined in the Administrative Policies (AP-1 to AP-37) of the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS).

C. Membership
Automatic membership in the FNSSU shall extend to:
1. All declared First Nations Studies academic program students: a major, joint majors, minor, a certificate, and post-baccalaureate diploma. In addition, SFU FNEP program students in FNS
2. Membership excludes program graduates

D. Meetings
1. There shall be a minimum of two regular general meetings of the FNSSU per academic term in the Fall and Spring terms, and a minimum of one regular general meeting of the Association in the Summer term.
2. The meeting times are responsibilities of the officers, but a group of members may approach the officers regarding a special interest meeting at any time.
   a. The Officers of the Union shall call meetings of the membership.
   b. The Executive Committee must honour a petition requesting a general meeting, if it is signed by 4 or more members.
3. There shall be a five (5) business day notice of all meetings.
4. Meetings shall be announced through media.
5. Quorum shall be four (4) members of the union except during summer when quorum will be three (3).

6. The executives shall meet once a month.
   a. All meetings are open to all members.

7. All decisions made by the union shall be determined by consensus-based decision making. If a decision is not reached after two rounds without reaching unanimous consensus, then the matter will be decided upon through a majority vote of the quorum present.

E. Executives

There shall be the following officers.

1. Chair/Co-Chairs
   a. Responsible for leading and attending all meetings.
   b. Responsible for advertising meetings.
   c. Assure the constitution is upheld.
   d. Assist subcommittees in locating resources.

2. Treasurer
   a. Responsible for maintaining records of all monies received and spent by the FNSSU.
   b. Responsible for the presentation of a proposed budget at the first general meeting of each semester.
   c. Shall be responsible for liaising with the SFSS and other funding bodies concerning financial matters.

3. Secretary
   a. Maintain minutes for all general meetings.
   b. Either email minutes out to all members on the email list;
   c. Post the minutes at the Department of First Nations Studies office corridor (bulletin board) within one week of the reported meeting.

4. Signing officers
   The signing officers must be:
   i. The treasurer
   ii. The chair or one co-chair.

5. Council Representative
   1. This position entails the representation of the FNSSU to the SFSS Council

6. Rotunda Representative
   1. This position entails the representation of the FNSSU to the groups within the Rotunda (for example: Out on Campus, SFU Women's Centre, SFPIRG, First Nations Students Association, etc.)

7. Department Representative
   1. This position entails representation of the FNSSU to the FNS department.

F. Elections

1. The term for all officers and representatives shall be one year.
   Elections shall occur at the second general meeting of the FNSSU
in the fall semester.
2. It is the responsibility of the returning officers to call the first General Meeting of the semester.
   a. If the Chair and subsequent positions are not returning in the fall semester, or, if a meeting has not been called by September 30th by outgoing executives, or in response to a petition of the membership, then any interested member of the union may provide notice of meeting and elections.
3. Any member of the FNSSU is eligible to run for any position
4. Elections must be announced in the notice of the meeting at which the election is to occur.
5. Nominations for any position shall be open at the time of notice and shall remain open until the election has occurred.
6. Voting will be by secret ballot, with the person receiving a majority vote being elected. If there is no majority, then the person receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated, and a new vote shall be held. In case of a tie, there will be one re-vote, and then a method agreed to by those present will be used.
7. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the Executive Committee positions, a majority of the Committee shall appoint a replacement until the next General Meetings, at which time a replacement shall be elected.
8. The members may recall any person elected to represent them by a two-thirds vote of members present at a quorate meeting called for the purpose. Notice of the meeting must contain the purpose.
9. By elections may be held to fill executive positions that are unfilled in the annual general election, or that become vacant throughout the year. Members elected to executive and representative positions in this manner shall hold office until the annual elections are conducted.

G. Amendments
1. This Constitution may be amended
2. Except that Sections G1, G2, G4 and H shall not be amended.
3. The proposed amendment must be posted prominently, for a minimum of two weeks prior to the General Meeting and notice of meeting shall indicate where copies of the constitution and amendments may be obtained.
4. Copies of the amendment must be readily available.
5. Amendments require a consensus vote of those present and voting at a quorate General Meeting called for this purpose.

H. Dissolution
1. In the event that members decide to dissolve the FNSSU, or in the event that this union becomes inactive, all assets of the union become the property of the SFSS, to be held in trust for a minimum period of two years.
2. After two years, if the trust has not been dissolved, the SFSS may dispose of the assets as it sees fit.

For the purpose of this Article, the union shall have become inactive if, for two consecutive semesters, membership does not hold the minimum number of quorate general meetings as required by this constitution.