State of the Union

**Exit Report of the President of the
Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union**

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July 14, 2005
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1. Preamble

The story of the Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union began in 1999 with the formation of a new university, the Technical University of British Columbia (TechBC). In 2002, the provincial government shut down the new university, and it's programs and students were amalgamated into Simon Fraser University (SFU). At this point, the TechBC Learner Association was disbanded, and reformed as a member of the Simon Fraser Student Society, originally called the Surrey Student Society, and later the Unnamed Student Society. Once the School of Interactive Arts and Technology came into being in 2003, the union henceforth became known as the Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union – IATSU. This union is a departmental student union (DSU) within the SFSS and represents the interests of students in TechOne, and Interactive Arts and Technology. In addition to providing numerous on and off campus events, this student society has had quite a history of fighting for it's survival after the opening of TechBC and since the closure of that university. As we move into the future we hope to be able to continue to represent the needs of SFU Surrey students.

It has been my pleasure to be President of the IATSU. Following this preamble, is my exit report – the most comprehensive writeup of what is going on with the student union that I am aware of.

If you have any questions about the report, or wish to inform me of any inaccuracies, please feel free to contact me at Drinkwater -at- sfu.ca

Sincerely,
Andrew Drinkwater

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2. Interactive Arts and Technology Student Union – Internal Relations

2.1 Executive

As of the writing of this report, there were 12 executive positions on the IATSU:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Interactive Arts Rep
- Information Technology Rep
- TechOne Rep
- Director of Social Activities
- Director of Technology
- Director of Internal Affairs
- Director of External Affairs
- Computing Arts and Design Sciences (SIAT) graduate rep
- Forum Representative to the SFSS

The President, Vice President and Treasurer had signing authority for the union; 2 of 3 signatures were necessary for all financial matters.

While having the option of this many is executives is a nice luxury to have, I personally found that there were a number of perpetually vacant positions, as well as a number of people who ran uncontested, just so that they could use the IATSU office as either a hangout or study area. Typically, these uses left the impression that the student union does not do anything, and that they are a waste of money.

I personally would recommend to any successor's a smaller executive board, with working committees for big events and issues.

I would also like to see the eventual implementation of some form of office hours: where executives would staff the office or a public area of the campus every week at set times. This would allow the students to better know the executive, and help to promote student union activities.
Having a solid treasurer in place for the next year would also be extremely helpful in planning and maintaining a budget for the student union.

2.2 IATSU Office

The office has become a bit of a hangout or study area for certain executives recently. This needs to change in order to maintain the integrity of the student union. Regular office hours and executive presence could go a long way to improving the relationship with the student body.

2.3 Events

Last year, the IATSU held a number of events:
Orientation events, pumpkin carving contests, lazer tag, ice skating, and more

2.4 Relations with SIAT Graduate Association

Currently there are very few ties between the undergraduate IATSU and it's graduate counterpart. There should be some working relationships to help student messages get to university administration.

3. Campus Related Information

3.1 TechBC Transition

2005/2006 will be the last year of the TechBC-SFU transition period. Ideally, at that point, the end of the modular system, the Information Technology program, the current Interactive Arts program, and the Management and Technology program from TechBC should be fully phased out, and the new programs in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology will be phased in fully.

At the end of this academic year, it will have been four years since the closure of the Technical University of British Columbia. In this time, numerous students have graduated from the Programs in Interactive Arts and Information Technology, as well as from the Faculty of Business Administration.

Outstanding issues still involving the TechBC transition are how this will impact Graduate students working on their theses, and how the new programs will impact the hiring of new faculty and staff. A major issue here is how the faculty members in both IA and IT will be able to retain their jobs when there is a new international competition opened up for tenure positions. The IATSU needs to continue to fight for the best professors here at the Surrey campus to remain here.

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3.2 Clubs on Campus

3.2.1 Salsa Club

The Salsa Club (www.sfusurreysalsa.com) is the largest club on campus. For information, contact Randy Pante.

3.2.2 Flow by Design
For all those who value design, whether you are an engineer, communicator, architect, computer scientist, psychologist, manager of technology, accountant, marketer, etc… We understand that the future will be forged by a common vision, all held with a multitude of hands.

info@flowbydesign.com

3.2.3 Go Anime Club
The GO Anime club is a club dedicated for Anime and Gaming fans of the student body, as well as anyone else who have interest in the Anime and Gaming community.

http://www.goanime.org

3.2.4 Surrey Christian Fellowship

I am not sure if this club is still active.

Contact: Titus Gregory (**tgregory**).

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3.3 Campus Contacts

3.3.1 – Student Services and Coop Staff
[all contact information has been removed for privacy reasons]

If you need a campus contact, please contact the current IATSU president: iatsu-pres@sfu.ca, or 604-268-7548; or, contact the Surrey campus Student and Registrar Services office at 604-268-7400.

4. Student Committees

4.1 Committees at SFU Surrey

3.1.1 TechOne Ad Hoc Advisory Committee:
Note: this committee is currently in transition. Please contact Jane Fee closer to September for more information

Student Reps are currently Andrew Drinkwater (drinkwater) and Caleb Buxton (cbuxton).

Terms of reference are a student who is in TechOne or has completed it within the last two years. These positions may be opening in the fall.

Committee chair: Dr. E. Jane Fee (jfee), Director of the TechOne program. Currently, IATSU is able to nominate people to the committee chair upon request.

4.1.2 SIAT Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Current Undergraduate Student Rep is Lyndsey Thompson (lyndseyt)

This committee is responsible for approving curriculum changes within the School of Interactive Arts and Technology.

Chair is currently Jim Budd (jbudd), faculty in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology. This position is nominated by IATSU, in consultation with the committee chair.

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4.1.3 SFU Surrey Joint Space Committee

Current Undergraduate Student Rep is Trevor Kwan (tkwana), Graduate Rep is Arsalan Butt (ab).

This committee is responsible for the planning and implementation of the new campus at Central City.

4.1.4 Joint Health and Safety Committee:

There are no student reps on this committee as it is a Workers Compensation Board mandated committee between employers (SFU) and employees. Some students may be involved in the committee if they are university employees, in particular members of the Teaching and Support Staff Union (TSSU).

Terry Lavender is the chair of this committee. He can be contacted through terry_lavender . CoChair: Mabel Tang (tang).

4.1.5 Arts and Social Sciences – Explorations Committees

No committees are currently running. Contact Leonard Thong (leonardt) in about November for more information.

4.1.6 Sciences – Science Year One Committees

No committees are currently running. Contact Alistair Lachlan (alistair) in late August for more information.

4.2 Committees at SFU Burnaby

4.2.1 Faculty of Applied Science Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Current Undergraduate Student Rep is Lyndsey Thompson (lyndseyt)

This committee is responsible for approving curriculum changes within the Faculty of Applied Science at SFU.

Chair is currently John Jones (jones), Associate Dean for the Faculty of Applied Science. This position is nominated by the Simon Fraser Student Society.

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4.2.2 Senate

Senate is responsible for the academic governance of the University and so it must be concerned with all important matters that bear on teaching and research in the University; this includes the development of new initiatives, the formation of priorities, and the consideration and approval of policies. Senate's agenda should be open for informed debate of issues of significance for the whole University.

Elections are conducted in March, along with SFSS, Board of Governors, and IATSU elections.

http://www.sfu.ca/senate

4.2.3 Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is the senior governing body at Simon Fraser University constituted under the University Act. The overall responsibility for the business of the University (property, revenue and policies) is vested in the Board. (The academic governance of the University is vested in the Senate).
The Board has 15 members including the Chancellor, the President, 2 elected faculty members, 2 elected students, 1 elected staff member, and 8 individuals appointed by the Government of the Province of British Columbia.
The Board meets six times a year on Thursday afternoons. The Open Session portions of the meetings are open to the public.
If you have any questions about the Board and its work, please call 604.291.4644.

Chair: Brandt Louie, Chairman of the HY Louie Company.

Elections are conducted in March, along with the SFSS and Senate elections.

http://www.sfu.ca/bog

4.2.4 SFSS Forum

SFSS Forum complements the role and responsibilities of the Board of Directors. Forum has representatives from each department (including SIAT), faculty, and school at SFU. Forum meets monthly to discuss the issues and challenges that face each individual department, faculty and constituency group in the interest of acting collectively.

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5. SFSS Related Information

5.1 Other Faculties, Departments and Schools Need Representation

Until now, the IATSU has been the default student union on campus for students enrolled in the School of Interactive Arts and Technology, and the TechOne program.

There is no other representation for students in other programs at Surrey at this time. Of note, the Computing Science Student Society, and the Engineering Student Society have made efforts to come to this campus to see what it is all about. However, the students enrolled in these programs still must go to the Burnaby campus if they want to have representation in the student government, or join IATSU, even if they are technically not a member.

In Fall 2005, there will be programs at SFU Surrey in Applied Sciences – SIAT, Computing Science, and TechOne; Arts and Social Sciences – Explorations; Business Administration; and Science – Science Year One, Mathematics, and Life Sciences Year Two.

As it stands, there has been no mention of representation for any of these students' asides from SIAT and TechOne.

There also has not been any clear definition for the problem of first year cohort programs and the funding of those students. Having a separate student society for each program at SFU Surrey would be completely ridiculous, at least until 2010. This would serve to break up the already small group of students willing to work for the betterment of the campus.

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5.2 Relations with the Simon Fraser Student Society

Currently, relations with the SFSS are better than they have ever been in the past. Some SFSS members, in particular, Josephine Wong, Titus Gregory, Ed Deeks, Nancy Woodcock and Hattie Aitken have been particularly helpful with SFU Surrey related issues in the past few years (this list is not exhaustive by any means).

Notwithstanding the contributions of a few, there is still a lack of representation of the SFSS at Surrey. With few exceptions, there has been barely any presence by the SFSS in Surrey. Only one member came to September orientation, and he was from Surrey in the first place. There are few, if any SFSS funded activities or events happening at the Surrey campus.

Of the services the SFSS offers, including the General Office, Travel CUTS, Ombuds Office, Higher Grounds Coffee Bar, The Highland Pub, Catering, the Women's Centre, Out on campus, the Food Bank, Clubs, Quad Books and 6 cent photocopying, only Quad Books, Out on Campus, and 6 cent photocopying are easily accessible to students at this campus, and usually only accessible because of a direct volunteer contribution of money, time or transportation from an SFU Surrey student.

5.3 Quad Books

Quad Books has had the biggest and most noticeable impact on the Surrey campus of all the SFSS services. Nancy Woodcock and her staff have proved to be extremely helpful and willing to work with the IATSU on any issue we need. They have done everything from providing event advertising to staging a used book sale that hired students. Nancy also arranged for the student run photocopier located on campus.

The student photocopier is in greater need of support. The current situation has a volunteer checking on the paper on a random basis. Unfortunately, the volunteer is not always able to diagnose problems with the machine and needs to contact Quad Books for support in this situation. Currently, the copier is under utilized, and may need better signage to let students know it exists.

The Used Book Sale run by Quad Books and IATSU has proved successful, with thousands of dollars changing hands. This is a service I believe needs to continue. One of the ongoing concerns is a viable location for the sale – somewhere visible. One suggestion is the IATSU office or possibly the meeting room behind it.