OUR MISSION

The Science Undergraduate Society strives to promote the academic, physical, and social wellbeing of all science students, generate a measure of pride and spirit for our Faculty, provide services for our students, create and foster a sense of science community, promote good relations with other communities on campus, and represent our interests as students to the administration.
BACKGROUND

The SUS Strategic Plan Review Ad-Hoc committee was formed at an emergency council meeting on March 16, 2017 to incorporate feedback from the Strategic Plan Review Ad-Hoc Committee formed in 2015, brainstorming sessions hosted at Council Retreat in 2014, 2015, 2016, and the annual SUS Back to School Survey.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Committee membership:
• Diane Nguyen (SUS President, Chair)
• Jeff Pea (Councillor)
• Alice Huang (Councillor)
• Daniel Lam (Member-at-large)
• Gurshabad Singhera (Member-at-large)
DEFINITIONS

The following terms are used throughout the Strategic Plan.

- **SUS** - The Science Undergraduate Society of the University of British Columbia - Vancouver
- **GSS** - The Graduate Student Society of the University of British Columbia - Vancouver
- **Council** - The governing body of the Science Undergraduate Society of the University of British Columbia - Vancouver, comprised of executive officers and other voting officers designated as delegates by the active members
- **Executive** - The nine voting members of the Executive Committee
- **SUS First Year Committee** - A committee comprised of hired first year students who host events catered to first-year UBC Science Students
- **Clubs Commission** - Hired individuals under the VP Administration Portfolio who are responsible for Clubs Orientations, check-ins, and support
- **Abdul Ladha Science Student Centre** - The Science Undergraduate Society’s student-operated building which aims to provide a social and study space for its constituents
- **Dean’s Office** - The strategic, regulatory and administrative hub for the Faculty of Science
- **Advancing Science** - The UBC Faculty of Science strategic plan
- **Science Student Engagement** - A division within the Dean’s Office which helps support the student experience through experiential learning, engagement, and professional development. The SSE also oversees Science-specific programming (SCI Team, SPAC) and UBC Orientations and Transition
- **Science Advising** - A division within the Dean’s Office which acts as a resource for students in navigating degree planning, academic concessions, and consultations
- **UBC Orientations** - Programming run by multiple faculties to welcome students who are new to UBC
- **SUS First Week** - A week-long celebration hosted by SUS to welcome returning and new students to UBC
- **Faculty Fair** - Science club booth during First Week organized by SUS
- **Science RXN** - The UBC Science First Year Orientations Event hosted by SUS
- **Science Week** - A week-long celebration of Science pride hosted by SUS
- **Science Graduation** - A year-end celebration for graduating students hosted by SUS
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

SUS strives to work within the Faculty to create a strong sense of community and support for students while aiming to provide students with increased opportunities to engage with SUS, one another and the external community.

GOAL: EXPAND THE SUS COMMUNITY BY CREATING MORE LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS

STRATEGIES:
- Create more structured volunteer opportunities and expand events and committee involvement opportunities
- Establish a volunteering and involvement database
- Support our student leaders by providing Professional Development resources and support for volunteers
- Create funding and support programs for student run conferences and initiatives aimed at and run by Science Students based on their needs
- Provide opportunities for diverse groups of students to become involved with SUS
- Standardize hiring practices and guidelines

GOAL: WORK TOWARDS CREATING A UNIFIED SCIENCE COMMUNITY

STRATEGIES:
- Build and maintain strong relationships with other Student Service arms within the Faculty through continuous communication and collaboration
- Work with the Faculty of Science to create a Science wide calendar
- Increase Science Identity by providing standardized merchandise and promotional materials that emphasize faculty pride and association
- Create a more inviting, approachable and student friendly space which caters to the academic and social needs of students in the Abdul Ladha Science Centre
- Maintain and expand Flagship Faculty wide events including SUS First Week and Faculty Fair, Science Week and Science Graduation
GOAL: CONNECT AND ENGAGE WITH ALUMNI, CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

STRATEGIES:
• Collaborate with faculty, administration, and advising to reach out to existing Outreach to High School conferences and events to engage and support prospective UBC Science Students
• Establish and maintain a SUS alumni network
• Provide networking opportunities for current students to engage with alumni and prospective employers
• Increase collaboration with UBC Orientations Programs to connect First Year students with the Faculty and SUS Community
• Provide ongoing programming and initiatives to support the wellbeing of current students

GOAL: RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SCIENCE STUDENTS

STRATEGIES:
• Increase the amount and awareness of SUS administered awards, grants and appreciation events with widespread reach to recognize student achievements outside of SUS
• Highlight the accomplishments of Science Students in SUS Publications and communication mediums

GOAL: ESTABLISH STRONG RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SUS COUNCIL AND THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS AND DEAN’S OFFICE

STRATEGIES:
• Provide more opportunities for Science Students at large to engage with representatives from the Faculty of Science and Departmental Leadership Teams
• Provide Council Representatives with the premise and tools to effectively communicate with their Departmental Heads and Program Advisors
GOAL: INCREASE COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SUS AND SCIENCE STUDENTS

STRATEGIES:
• Create and implement a comprehensive social media strategy that engages students
• Explore avenues to increase promotions and advertisement of SUS resources, services and grants
• Develop methods to share the vision and purpose of SUS with students to increase understanding.
• Make council more relevant and accessible to students by posting summaries
INTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUS recognizes that in order to develop a strong society, we must first improve our internal structures and processes. This in turn will enable us to increase efficiency and transparency with our students and councillors.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE SUS COUNCIL AND LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

STRATEGIES:
- Create a more structured turnover process by enforcing transition reports between current and former Councillors, Executives, and hired individuals in Executive Portfolios
- Develop Council and Executive accountability and oversight policies such as publicizing executive goals and conducting executive reviews
- Provide adequate professional development and technical skills training and resources for incoming Councillors and Executives
- Continuous re-examination of councillor and Executive Roles
- Re-examine and restructure SUS Governance documents to increase relevance and transparency

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GOAL: STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH SUS CLUBS

STRATEGIES:

• Maintain Clubs Commission as a resource for Science Clubs
• Host effective and beneficial orientations for Clubs
• Act as a central forum to connect and increase collaboration among Science Clubs and the society
• Increase communications about available and relevant SUS resources for Clubs
STUDENT TRANSITION

SUS is committed to improving the overall student experience by ensuring that the student transition into and out of UBC Science is put forth as a priority in the Faculty. Student transition goes beyond orientation sessions or workshops, in order for students to feel fully supported, transition must be recognized as long term rather than short term priority.

GOAL: PROVIDE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR HIGH SCHOOL TO POST-SECONDARY TRANSITION

STRATEGIES:
- Improve the structure of SUS First Year Committee to engage more students and develop First Year leaders
- Integrate a stronger connection between SUS First Year Committee and Faculty programs providing tools and resources to First Year students
- Work with campus groups to provide continuous support for First Year students in the Faculty of Science
- Increase the breadth and reach of Science RXN

GOAL: PROVIDE SUPPORT AND TOOLS FOR GRADUATING MEMBERS IN THEIR TRANSITION OUT OF UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY

STRATEGIES:
- Encourage and support Program Representatives on Council and SUS Departmental Clubs to host Program specific Career Nights
- Maintain and expand Science Career Fair or Expo with input and participation from all Departments
- Work with existing groups within the Faculty, such as the Science Student Engagement Office, who host graduation transition programming to increase promotion and outreach to students
- Increase collaboration with the Graduate Student Society to offer more support to undergraduate students
GOAL: PROVIDE SUPPORT AND INFORMATION TO TRANSFER STUDENTS ENTERING THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

STRATEGIES:
- Play a more active and engaged role in Transfer Student Orientations
- Collaborate with campus groups to provide specific information sessions and events directed towards orienting transfer students with SUS and our involvement opportunities
ACADEMIC AND NON ACADEMIC LOBBYING

SUS is the collective representative voice of Science Students, Academic and Non Academic Lobbying is our way of voicing student concerns, presenting solutions and providing a student perspective to issues in the Faculty of Science. SUS aims to use its position and relationship with the Faculty and Administration to bring forth student concerns in a productive manner.

GOAL: PROVIDE MECHANISMS FOR STUDENTS TO EXPRESS FEEDBACK AND CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR STUDENT EXPERIENCE

STRATEGIES:

• Host annual feedback surveys, focus groups and events to obtain student input and concerns to shape Academic Lobbying projects and goals annually
• Increase awareness of SUS’s online feedback form for students to express grievances and concerns at any time throughout the year
• Communicate projects that SUS Academic Committee is working on to students at large and develop ways for students to get involved

GOAL: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT INPUT AND FEEDBACK IN THE FACULTY

STRATEGIES:

• Aim for increased student representation in Science Faculty committees
• Provide an opportunity for students to provide feedback on departmental level curriculum reviews and communicate changes to all students
• Work towards creating mid-term course review for core courses to enable students to provide continuous feedback to promote their learning and understanding
GOAL: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT INPUT AND FEEDBACK IN THE FACULTY
BRING FORTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS AS A PRIORITY FOR THE FACULTY

STRATEGIES:

- Encourage Faculty and Departments to monitor and support student MH&W in their programs
- Incorporate elements of MH&W into SUS’s existing feedback forms and surveys
- Lobby for increased resources and support for MH&W in the Faculty
- Encourage Faculty wide examination of academic policies and program structures to explore their impact on student MH&W

GOAL: FOSTER SUPPORTIVE, ENGAGED AND ACCOUNTABLE FACULTY ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIES:

- Work with Dean’s Office to develop advising and academic support practices that are student centric and friendly
- Develop methods of increased communication between Faculty Leadership and students at large
- Work with Dean’s office to promote and implement Advancing Science on undergraduate level through organizing regular Town Hall Meetings and other feedback sessions