

We call on the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) and Simon Fraser University (SFU) to ensure that student groups representing and supporting Indigenous, Black and other marginalized communities continue to have space to live and thrive.

We were outraged to learn that no space had been allocated for the SFU First Nations Students Association (FNSA), the SFU Students of Caribbean and African Ancestry (SOCA) nor the SFU Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG) in the new SFSS Student Union Building. Having served the SFU community for over 25 years, it is unacceptable that these groups may be prevented from continuing to organize and run services because they have not been designated space.

Again and again university institutions fail to recognize that student clubs and organizations are an essential aspect of academia. We call for recognition of the significant role student clubs have for marginalized students on campus. From our own experience at UBC, and hearing the voices of SFU students, brick-and-mortar spaces are critical to the life and vibrancy of student groups. FNSA, SOCA, and SFPIRG provide crucial support and are vital to the creation of spaces for marginalized students to gather, organize and build community.

We would like to remind SFSS that SFU is situated upon unceded and stolen Sḵw̱wú7mesh (Squamish), x̱məθkʷəy̑əm (Musqueam), səliwətaʔt̚ (Tsleil-Waututh), ǰičəy̑ (Katzie) and kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem) territories. The SFSS' exclusion of Indigenous students and racialized students from the new Student Union Building stands in opposition to SFU's apparent commitment to reconciliation and is fundamentally symptomatic of ongoing institutional racism.

The failure to provide FNSA, SOCA, and SFPIRG with the basic necessities to thrive - a home at SFU campus - is an act of dispossession that cannot be tolerated. This decision represents a perpetuation of structural violence against communities that face additional barriers and remain underrepresented in higher education institutions. This omission is unacceptable, and the SFSS must fulfill its mandate to be accountable to all members of its student community, especially to Black, Indigenous and students of colour, and all other communities who face intersecting marginalizations.

We support the demands of the [FNSA](#), [SOCA](#), and [SFPIRG](#), as expressed in their petitions and public letters. SFU and the SFSS must reverse the violent precarity imposed on these communities, and commit to securing adequate room for them, in recognition of the importance and safety that physical spaces offer to marginalized students and to the broader university community.

We stand in solidarity with SFPIRG, SOCA and FNSA in their demand for space in the SFU Student Union Building.

#SaveFNSA #SaveSOCA #SaveSFPIRG #IndigenousStudentsMatter #BlackSpacesMatter #resisttheuniversity

Signed,

UBC Social Justice Centre

UBC Women's Centre

The Pride Collective UBC

Down with Racial Capitalism UBC

Bike Kitchen UBC

Gender Race and Social Justice Undergraduate Association

CiTR Radio and Discorder Magazine

UBC Progressive Jewish Alliance

UBC Student Environment Centre