

SMUSA President's Report

Shiray Tan, President & CEO

Society Mandatory \$5 Membership Fee Policy Amendments

SMUSA amended the \$5 membership fee mandate for all societies, so the option to choose their preferred fundraising method is now available. Societies can opt for fundraising through activities such as bake sales or continue with membership fees. This amendment grants autonomy to society executives, allowing them to decide what best suits the interests of their community.

Final Exam Weightage Cap

SMUSA has been advocating for a Final Exam Weightage Cap to be implemented as a policy within SMU. This initiative aims to set a maximum percentage on the weight of Final Exams in courses. Substantial progress and discussions have taken place in pursuit of this advocacy. We will keep pushing forward for our members and remain cautiously optimistic until we succeed.

Events

Throughout the month, SMUSA has organized a range of events and programming for students, with notable success achieved in activities such as Gift Card Bingo and Disney 2000 Trivia. We express gratitude for the active participation and value the support extended by the students.

Reform Internal Course Evaluation Process

In a move towards accountability and quality of education, SMUSA successfully urged the university to reform the Internal Course Evaluation (ICE process). This led to the establishment of a committee, jointly formed by the university and SMUSA, dedicated to reviewing and enhancing the ICE process.

Talk to You Board in Loyola

To bridge the communication gap between SMUSA and its members, we introduce SMUSA's Talk to You board in the Loyola Academic Building. This board will be regularly updated to keep students informed about SMUSA's ongoing initiatives and efforts such as the P/NC advocacy.

SMUSA Open Survey

The SMUSA Open Survey garnered substantial participation from students, providing valuable feedback on their perception of SMUSA, areas for improvement, and aspects they appreciate. This engagement is crucial in shaping our work to ensure that we are best serving students. We will continue to seek input from our members.

Welcome Weeks Winter 2024

SMUSA successfully hosted a series of Welcome Weeks events including Welcome to the Gorsebrook, Skating at the Oval, Movie Night, and Hot Chocolate with SMUSA. We are all incredibly excited to welcome all Winter 2024 students to SMU. We wish them the very best and would like to remind them of SMUSA's support through their journey at SMU.

Roundtable with Society Executives

In an effort to enhance transparency with our members, we have recently introduced a new method for gathering feedback from society executives. On January 26, during the Society Summit, we conducted a productive hour-long roundtable discussion, featuring representatives from various societies engaging in an open conversation about their support needs. The session's success has led us to consider making it a regular occurrence. We extend our gratitude to the society leaders for their active participation and invaluable contributions, which aid us in continually improving our support mechanisms for our members.

Office Hours Published on SMUSA Website

To enhance accessibility and transparency, we have published the office hours of our executive team on the SMUSA website. This update allows students to access this information conveniently without the need to visit the SMUSA office in person.