

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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Dear Fellow APSA Members,

This has been a more eventful year than I could have imagined for my first year on the APSA board. Both SFU and APSA staff/board members will need to work collaboratively to address issues to take ownership for their respective parts in this long and storied relationship. Below I summarize some key activities this year that have been in our focus:

- 5 of this year's 9 board members had not been on the board prior, and all three took on Executive roles.
- Nearly 50 APSA members took Voluntary Retirement at the end of February 2026.
- The APSA Board Executive and APSA Executive Director attended monthly liaison meetings with Labour Relations staff and the VP, PEI. The same individuals were also joined by President Joy Johnson at semesterly meetings.
- APSA provided an information-only document on the pros and cons of unionizing.
    - This was done simply to fulfill a 2024 AGM motion from a member on the floor requesting more information to be shared with the membership.
- APSA staff organized a Fall Surrey social and Summer Burnaby social.
- Held an APSA committee volunteers appreciation lunch in April.
- Continued to discuss how to prepare a current Strategic Plan.
- Continued to pursue Basic Agreement grievance on SFU's exclusions of APSA members (APEX).
- Grievance on Hybrid Work pushed through to arbitration, following an unsuccessful attempt to mediate the issues.
- Held more than a handful jointly organized Professional Development events with UBC's Association of Administrative and Professional Staff (AAPS)

On this page: APSA President Christopher Piché. Photo courtesy of Chingtai Wong. Copyright 2026.

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- Responded to SFU's notice to reopen the Basic Agreement and follow that process down to the final step of non-binding mediation.
  - We have an agreement that is a 1-year extension from January 1 to December 31, 2027, but will require prompt efforts to discuss how to work together more effectively.
- Saw the agreement to end the facilitation by mediator of the Joint University Affairs Committee (JUAC) meetings. This facilitation took place for 20 months.
- Provided feedback at a meeting of all employee groups leaders to share what each group wants the SFU President's Search Committee to look out for most keenly in their search, for a leader who will be effective in working with the various stakeholders on campus.

I would like to pay thanks to all of our staff; Aicha Etrew (Member Services Officer), Tracey Ferris (Senior Member Services Officer), Lakshmi Gosyne (Associate Director, Communications) and Andrew Boden (Executive Director); as well as to outgoing board members: Jeff Bryer and Mike Peragine.

I would also like to thank those members and others who were active in support of Monetary Bargaining and, immediately after that, Basic Agreement negotiations: Ellen Yap (Chair, Salary and Benefits Committee), David Harvey (Spokesperson), Dana Andrews, David Semail, Jeff Bryer, Andrew Boden, Lakshmi Gosyne, and Tracey Ferris.

Christopher Piché
President, APSA Board of Directors