

I-EDI Listening Session Summary (Fall 2023) Megan MacGregor and Melanie Medina

Background and Goal:

The SFU Faculty of Health Sciences seeks to support student success, with the acknowledgement that structural hierarchies like white supremacy, colonialism, capitalism, and the patriarchy limit student potential. The I-EDI Advisory Circle aims to address these inequities by gathering and utilizing information about them and promoting learning and community development. Graduate student representatives Megan MacGregor and Melanie Medina organized a listening session in Fall 2023 to understand challenges faced by FHS students. The findings from this session are summarized below.

Themes:

1. Structural Inequities: Participants highlighted that the built environment of Blusson Hall, access to support services, and experiences of discrimination strongly impact their experiences in FHS.
2. Faculty/Student Interactions: Students discussed power differentials, limited avenues to meaningfully voice concerns, and lack of cultural and emotional safety as impacting their experiences. Misnaming and misgendering were common grievances.
3. Diverse Definitions of Security: Students expressed varied feelings of security and safety on campus, suggesting that changes in security be made. However, the suggested changes were both increasing and decreasing the security presence on campus.
4. Desire for Better: Participants expressed a desire for improvement, emphasizing the importance of allyship, equity-focussed hiring, representation in leadership, and student support networks.

Key Takeaways:

This listening session served as a platform for community building and raising awareness of student concerns. These four major themes highlight the importance of student consultation for the continual development of a supportive environment.

For Future Sessions:

In the full report, we provide a breakdown of how this session was run, and improvements that could be made for future sessions.

In conclusion, the insights gathered from this session are invaluable for informing future initiatives of the FHS I-