

**Investigating Accessibility of Public Campus Spaces
at the University of British Columbia and Simon
Fraser University**

**by
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Abstract

This research explores the spectrum of public accessibility at selected central public spaces at the University of British Columbia's Vancouver campus and Simon Fraser University's Burnaby campus. As both universities are progressing towards urbanization and density, knowing how their public spaces are used by students and the general public alike can advise future directions for campus planning and policy. These two major universities provide housing for a growing residential population and publics that are not necessarily registered students, or employees. Moreover, as both campuses are working to provide increased accessibility to their spaces through public transportation, they will need to chart out directions on how to navigate their seemingly contrasting missions as institutions for higher education while accommodating residents and a diverse demographic of space users who have no direct association with the university. Taking inspiration from methodologies used to study privately owned public spaces, structured observations of physical features, and interviews, the author finds disagreement among interpretations to the degree of publicness of university spaces commonly assumed to be "public". The findings demonstrate the changing nature and meaning of campus spaces through time, as both universities navigate the challenges and opportunities of finding ways to accommodate a greater range of students, residents, and other space users.

Keywords: university campus; public space; accessibility; students; University of British Columbia; Simon Fraser University; security; urban design; social diversity; observations

Dedication

I dedicate this research to the past, current, and future students of the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. May you all create memories that you will cherish for a lifetime.

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Chapter 1. Introduction

This is a research project about comparing the accessibility of key public places at the University of British Columbia's Point Grey campus and Simon Fraser University's Burnaby Mountain campus. Over the years, the institution of UBC has participated in a conscious, rebranding effort to market itself as a lifestyle residential district with urban amenities while being committed to its goals as a university campus. For a district that has become more urbanized in recent years with University Neighbourhood Association (UNA) residents making up about 15% of the total campus daytime population (Ngo et al 2014, 8), many UBC spaces no longer serve only the daytime academic student and university population. The demographic of campus users at UBC and SFU has become diversified with the more mixed, flexible population of consumers, neighbourhood residents, visitors, and students alike. Maintaining a balanced mix of social diversity is constructive for the long-term health of communities by nurturing a "geography of opportunity", which ensures better access to resources for all groups (Talen and Lee, 37). When this concept of diversity is applied to UBC, I make the connection that well-educated groups empowered through the university can benefit from the creativity, social capital, and cross-fertilization that occurs when people of different backgrounds and income-levels are mixed.

This is also true for the newer campus of SFU which has developed in similar ways to UBC by making strides in branding its residential development with establishment of the SFU Community Trust. The two mission statements of the Trust are, "To establish a residential community which compliments existing and future university development", and "To establish an endowment fund and other sources of revenue to support university purposes".¹ From a 1998 vision statement, "UniverCity" is anticipated to grow to approximately 10,000 to 11,000 people over the next 25 years (SFU Community Trust 2014, i). This excerpt from a promotional UniverCity document describes UniverCity as "a community that will include students, faculty, scholars, staff, business people, families, retirees, and others who want to live in a community that is distinct from the rest of the Lower Mainland" (SFU Community Trust 2014, i). SFU's goal of establishing a "model

¹ UniverCity: Mission Statement

<http://univercity.ca/sustainability/mission-statement/>

sustainable community” at UniverCity that is now acclaimed at the local, national, and international level, plays a role in empowering the university’s brand by incorporating new urban amenities onto its once remote mountaintop location.. How does this wider residential community vision reflect in the university’s planning of creating accessible public spaces? For whom are university spaces public and made accessible? By undertaking case studies on both campuses, my research aims to explore the nature of public spaces at both UBC and SFU and where they currently stand on their trajectory to becoming more diverse, socially inclusive communities. From my personal experiences and observations at the two universities, their campuses may give the impressions of being lively urban districts, with their offerings of shops, services, and events, but in reality their spatial designs and policies prioritize the needs and experiences of the student community. The range of people and activities observed on campus grounds are comparatively limited and cannot represent the full human spectrum of a large urban community.

This research is relevant to the field of planning and urban studies in explaining how university campuses like UBC and SFU fit into the urban fabric and the extent to which they are welcoming to a wide range of people and relevant to their surrounding urban regional context by providing opportunities for employment, learning, socializing, and recreation. The urbanization of both universities are works in progress and knowing how their central public spaces are used by students and the general public can advise future directions for campus planning. As these universities provide housing for a growing residential population and a public that are not necessarily registered students or employees, they will need to chart out directions on how to navigate their seemingly contrasting missions of primarily serving as an institutions of higher education while accommodating new residents. At the same time, UBC and SFU’s reputations are strengthened by its emerging collection of desirable neighbourhoods and direction towards increased accessibility with the rest of the region. Like universities in many parts of the world, UBC and SFU are governed by legislation (in their cases, the University Acts), with expectation that the institution will contribute graduates who would aid in the province’s economic development (Damer and Rosengarten, 14). The university adapts business strategies to work towards the broader public interest to fund more research, expand endowments, and raise its reputation. It can be a challenge for institutions to plan and manage areas that are socially inclusive for everyone yet prioritize the needs of tuition-

paying students and employees concurrently, often for practical reasons such as limited space and resources.

My proposition is that the growing diversity and new population of residents living on and around campus, who are not necessarily students or university employees, have contributed to the blurring of university spaces into their new roles as multiuse community spaces. Spaces that were once perceived as academic places designed primarily for students have transitioned into a new kind of space that incorporates characteristics of public civic plazas. It is my task to assess the degree to which the array of spatial programming on campus in the forms of community events and new design features have contributed to the spirit of being more inclusive for new, more diverse, user populations, and residential base. I accomplished this task through a range of direct (onsite) and indirect (media and document) observations. Moreover, interviews with professionals knowledgeable on the planning, usage, and management of spaces help clarify official institutional policies on how these spaces are meant to be used and the directions they might transform in the future.

In Chapter 2, I unpack my research question and outline my thought process for methodology and bodies of relevant scholarships. I describe my conceptual framework and start discussing fundamental questions, including the definition and possible categorizations of a university campus by exploring how campuses may be applied to both the urban and park framework. Chapter 3 contains literature review selected from a set of papers in the fields of geography, sociology, and planning. Although few sources directly address my topic regarding public, private spaces of universities, I work with existing literature that can build a theoretical foundation as well as provide comparable parallel studies and examples. Chapter 4 contains an in-depth treatment of my methodologies. I present and discuss all the original findings through literature, interviews, and personal observations in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 is a shorter section on research limitations, implications, directions for future research, and conclusion on how the accessibility of campus space ultimately ties into a wider, contentious and ongoing debate on the exchange of ideas and free speech on campus.

Chapter 2. Research Question and Conceptual Framework

The full question that guides this research is:

To what extent are traditionally academic spaces on university campuses transitioning or blurring into public civic spaces based on their design features, social life, and spatial programming related to how non-university members use the space and how does this impact the public accessibility and social meaning of these spaces?

In answering this question, I build upon the concepts and methodologies from two UBC geography student projects where spatial programming was mapped and accessibility of privately-owned public spaces were measured. Programming can be understood as how outdoor spaces are used and defined by their physical, social, environmental, cultural, and historical attributes (Antkiw et al., 5-6). Social activities may be modified, eliminated, or added in order to maximize their vibrancy and use (Antkiw et al., 5). Accessibility is understood as the laws and rules governing the space, surveillance and policing present in the space, design-building techniques to literally and symbolically dictate appropriate behavior, access restrictions, and territorial separation to control space (Rahi et al., 27). I closely follow the methodology of Rahi et al. by surveying the physical attributes of spaces, categorized as either encouraging or discouraging accessibility, followed by observation of social life on the places visited. I add a couple of additional steps upon previous studies by reviewing institutional policies from the universities, as well as conducting interviews to get a more complete idea of where campus spaces are situated on the spectrum of publicness and accessibility. Finally, I comment on the significance of this new form of public space that blurs characteristics of traditional academic and public civic spaces.

Sociologist William Whyte stated that the “biggest single obstacle to the provision of better spaces is the undesirables problem” (Whyte, 156). There are various levels of undesirables, depending on the perspective of retailers, corporations, or business for example. This is closely tied to the levels of security and surveillance provided by the university. Based on my interviews with SFU security and UBC’s office of events and permitting within the department of planning, tuition paying students expect and deserve an environment that is conducive to learning on campus. All spaces of the campus are

considered academic and the staff are there for the students². Priority for events held on campus should be things that enhance the student experience.³ This implies outside of the student, academic sphere, any other events, programming, and public usages would be ranked at a lower priority. In my observations of campus public spaces I look for evidence of whether they are a “defensive plaza”, where there are police-like guards or design features that imply appropriate use and deter others (an example would be spike on ledges). William Whyte interpreted “accessible” as a place where “the public could use the space in the same manner that it uses any public space, with the same freedoms and the same constraints”. Many managers operate with a narrower concept of access if they restrict entertainers and people who distribute leaflets or give speeches (Whyte, 163). As I will discuss later, a reading of current university policies at SFU and UBC reveals that there are policy procedures to gain permission before an individual or organization is able to solicit on campus. However, rallies and protests also occur on campus and they are tolerated to the extent that they do not disrupt the flow of regular university programming or classes. As I learned in my interviews with representatives at both universities, activities and bookings that are too noisy or disrupt classes would not be given approval by the administration in the first place. For example, rallies that interfere with classes in session are not permitted and security will communicate with protestors to let them know of their responsibilities.

2.1. Stepping Stones to Research

Having selected the main question of “How accessible are university spaces?” I need to organize my procedure by drafting a flow chart of related questions and approaches to unpacking the story. I consider the following questions as an outline towards answering the full question:

² Interview with UBC Events and Film Manager, Arlene Chan, August 2019

³ Interview with SFU Security Supervisor Jason Morlin, May 2019

Where does current literature lie on understanding the concept of public space? The topic of public space is expansive, ranging from the politics of public space, ownership, community activism, and social, economic marginalization.

How does the literature describe university campuses? The literature addressing case studies of how the public use spaces on the university campus is limited, which is my primary question of interest in this study. There is literature describing the formation of exclusive student geographies on campus in the British context (Chatterton, 1999), and as special urban districts that can form “Town and Gown” partnerships with the city (Fox, 2014).

I continue with the question, what are some appropriate analogies or examples that can help us understand the concept of universities in a geographical sense? I examine the role of university public spaces in comparison with the role of an urban park and downtown public square. Both UBC and SFU have spacious green parklike spaces with pedestrian walkways even though none of these spaces are actually “parks” in a legal sense. From the perspective of Frederick Olmsted, urban parks should be socially integrated landscapes enjoyed by people from various social classes (Hern et al, 33). Sociologist William Whyte documented the behaviour of space users in the public plazas of New York City (Whyte, 1988). I read the dynamics of popular urban civic spaces as described by Whyte and note how they may differ in a busy campus environment. From my observations, the central spaces of UBC and SFU are used as environments for learning, leisure, recreation, as well as commercial enterprises and consumption.

The following questions that I consider to address the heart of my research includes, “Who is the public? (is there such a thing as a single public, or multiple publics?), and “Are spaces such as open parks and covered shopping malls, or airports equally part of the public realm or quantifiably different?”. In the case of universities, the thousands of enrolled students and employed members of the community could be considered as one type of public in the eyes of the administration, while visitors, businesses, and all other people using campus space for non-academic purposes, may be viewed as the other kind of public. The next question of interest is, “What rights do property owners have to limit the rights of those using their land?” I investigate this question by reviewing policy papers from

administration, security, and legal experts to see if there is a unique code of conduct for public campus spaces.

How do we categorize the university campus as a geographical concept? Globally, major universities have played the role of land and real estate developer, been described as contested spaces between academy and community, and symbols of autonomy within the city (Wiewel and Perry, 2008). While real estate, urbanization, and economic development are all appropriate research topics for both UBC and SFU, I focus here on the features of their public spaces at the ground level. From my public space selections, I note that they all have characteristics of urbanity and public urban parks while not being entirely committed to a single category.

Is there evidence that public spaces in the campus core of UBC and SFU are being used and programmed towards users outside of the university community? Through personal site visits, observations, web sources, and reviews of archival news sources, I find some evidence that planned events sponsored by the university take place on their central spaces, although these events are primarily targeted towards students or academics, while the public are not restricted from participating. Examples include the academic conference, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2019 at UBC, Imagine Day at UBC, and SFU's First Friday Carnival. On the other hand, some of the more notable events taking place on campus are unscheduled, as they are forums demonstrating voices of student discontent, as public protests.

What is the evidence suggesting that UBC and SFU are becoming more diverse and inclusive for public space users? Broadly, I take note that both campuses underwent major physical renovations and expansions in the past twenty years or so, while accommodating new residents and services relating to their needs.

Is there evidence that public spaces in the campus academic core have become more diversified and inclusive of users and usages than in the past? The residential population and infrastructure of UBC and SFU have grown significantly with the development of market housing neighbourhoods, and by extension, there are more diverse space users and members of the general public on campus compared to the time before the provision of on-campus housing aimed at residents beyond the university community.

What is the perspective of university architects and planners towards campus public spaces and their appropriate users and uses? An examination of campus spaces and interviews with architects suggests that they welcome a diversity of users. However, the fact that the campus is targeted to serve the needs of a specific population is highlighted.

What is the perspective of campus security towards campus public spaces and their appropriate users and uses? The official position of campus security contrasts sharply with architects and planners. I will give more detail on this in the discussion section.

2.2. Spatial Methodology

How do selected public spaces at UBC and SFU rank on the Németh and Schmidt index for evaluating accessibility of privately-owned public spaces? The space scoring of selected central spaces on these campuses are quantitatively higher than scores assigned to 31 of Vancouver's Privately Owned Public Spaces located downtown (Rahi, G et al, 2012). The nature of publicly funded universities suggests a heightened degree of public access, but there have been multiple instances recorded where conflict arises on campus space.

What do the scored rankings suggest about the geographical and social context of each campus? The rankings show that physical attributes and designs of campus places accommodate wider access and range of users. However, one must also consider the policies set by security and the distance between campus environments and the rest of the city, before it can be fully determined how accessible spaces are in practice.

2.3. Conceptual Framework

I open this chapter by identifying the major key factors that affect the levels of how public a space can be. Perfect social diversity and inclusion exists as an idea in the sky that is not present on the ground level. The owners and managers of space, in this case, university institutions, set policies and reserve the rights to control the degrees and types of accessibility, physical design, spatial programming, and the extent of security surveillance happening on campus. A more complete discussion of these factors will be dealt with in the literature review.

Conceptual Framework

How accessible are public places at UBC and SFU?

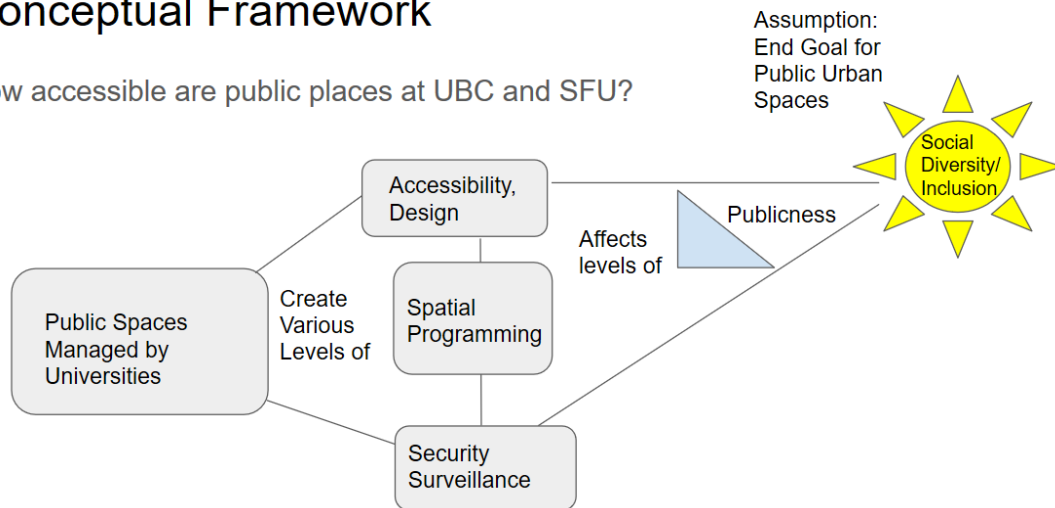


Figure 1) Measuring the accessibility of campus spaces

The basic framework as illustrated in Figure 1 considers factors that affects levels of publicness in spaces managed by the university. The various degrees of accessibility, design, spatial programming, and surveillance affects level of publicness (illustrated here as a prism). The analogy of the filtered light rays shining through the triangular prism striving to reach the sun of social diversity represents a kind of utopian ideal, since the rays never quite reach it. I accept the argument by Rahi et al. (2012, 25) that “public space

and private space differ not just in terms of ownership, but also along a spectrum of accessibility and openness. The extent to which a place is ‘public’ is furthermore contingent on users actively claiming it as such”. The university plans and manages its spaces, but how they are utilized in practice depends upon its range of actual users and activities. In reality, the sunshine of social diversity is clouded by questions surrounding the interpretation of what the undesirables are on public space. Examples and discussion in this paper illustrate the nuances of labelling certain actions as undesirable. Often, many questionable actions and behaviours are tolerated in public while raising a few eyebrows, although they cannot be exactly regarded as welcomed.

This research synthesizes literature on urban planning in the university context, social geography, theories of public space, and design for social diversity to present the current situation of how key public spaces at UBC and SFU are used. Primary sources, such as policy documents, and interview subjects speaking on the accessibility, design, spatial programming, and security inform the different levels of control over public spaces.

2.4. The definition of a “university” and why the campuses of UBC and SFU constitute “public space” in an urban environment

The idea of a university subsumes both the concept of an institution and physical space of buildings, classrooms, laboratories, library, and residences, which may be either university affiliated or non-university housing. I address this here to demonstrate how UBC or SFU may be seen as their own “cities” because a counter argument may be that they are merely “schools”, with the implication they rank lower than a city, town, or municipality. Prior to the official establishment of SFU’s mountain top community named “UniverCity”, the concept of “UniverCities” was already being discussed in Anne Wright’s 1994 lecture “The University in the Community”. The context in the conversations here were based on the United Kingdom but there are relevant points to higher education in Canada. The text recognized the evolving role of the university that was once thought of as a “community of scholars” to a place of learning where students are the primary purpose, core of university

(Wright, 91). Wright stated, as universities approach the 21st century, their role in the community is integral to their mission as an urban, metropolitan, and city university. In the 1990s, the impact of expansion in student populations is seen in growing student cities; “we could call them UniverCities”, Wright introduced the term, where “a city of three or four hundred thousand people may have thirty thousand university students at its centre, and perhaps twice that with further education added. Swathes of the inner city may be given over to university buildings and student residences” (Wright, 91). Wright stated that universities always had a role to play in their community and the examples of historic institutions such as the University of Sunderland and Sheffield University, showed the view that “their city should not be without the benefits which they felt a university could bring” (Wright, 91). The urban university is now conscious of its integrated role as a part of the community, rather than apart from the community. Based on these descriptions, Wright envisioned a city that is dedicated to the academic missions of a university since a substantial part of its resources goes towards supporting universities and student populations. At first glance, this description seems to fit Burnaby, a city with a population of around 230,000 with over 30,000 students at SFU. However, Burnaby Mountain is not located centrally in a business district and it is situated rather out of the way in the city’s north end. Moreover, the area around Burnaby’s central business district around Metrotown is not a university townsite, although this could describe SFU’s newer downtown Vancouver and Surrey city centre campuses. SFU’s UniverCity name resembles Wright’s coined term of “Univercities”. The name “UniverCity” for SFU dates to 2005, as the first phase of its development appeared at the east end of campus (Johnston, 337). The SFU Community Trust decided on UniverCity after the name University Highlands was not getting enough votes and a Simon Fraser Village already existed (Harris and Littlemore, 40). Before describing each university in detail, some fingertip statistics listed in Table A) from the institutions and approximate population counts from dissemination areas in Census Canada display considerable growths in both the population of community residents and total student enrollment. The starting date of 2001 was selected to give an idea of how SFU has grown before and after the UniverCity development began in the mid-2000s. Enrollment Figures for SFU includes undergraduate and graduates at all Burnaby, Vancouver, and Surrey campuses as students have the option of taking courses between campuses. The significant growth in student enrollment

for SFU also reflects the inclusion of SFU Surrey, which opened in 2002⁴. The figures suggest that the public areas of universities are likely evolving as these spaces become common grounds for an increasing student enrollment made up of both commuters and population staying in dormitories, alongside a long-term residential base at the same time. It should also be noted that the enrolled figures and population are not mutually exclusive as students settle down in housing of the surrounding neighbourhoods, sometimes with their parents and other family members. The lifestyles of residences comprising of individuals at various life stages and multigenerational families crisscross with younger students staying in university dormitories that are packaged with their own student support services and rules of conduct. It follows that university public spaces would change when this new mix of users are introduced into a geographic area that had fewer families and long term residents.

Table A) Enrollment and Population Figures

(Sources: SFU IRP, UBC Library, UBC Archives, Census Canada)

	Total Enrollment 2000/2001	Total Enrollment 2015/2016	Approximate Population of Campus and Environs 2001	Approximate Population of Campus and Environs 2016
UBC	53,199	54,229	6,470	13,607
SFU	24,290	34,948	2,642*	3,499**

Approximate population reflects my own count and inclusion of dissemination areas making up the UEL and Burnaby Mountain, using figures available from Census Canada.

*Dissemination area encompassing Burnaby Mountain was introduced for 2006 Census. In 2001, it was divided into two areas including portions of Burnaby neighbourhoods, with one extending south to Lougheed Highway.

**SFU Community Trust estimates a population of about 5,000 for the UniverCity community alone in 2017 (Duggan, 2017)

⁴ Ground Breakers : SFU Surrey <http://www.sfu.ca/report2002/surrey/index.html>

2.5. Descriptions of SFU

At present day, the presence of SFU on Burnaby Mountain makes it a busy institutional hub, supported by commercial and residential areas with its own public school. This resulted in an activity centre that would otherwise be unlikely to exist had it developed organically as another residential district or been entirely preserved as parkland. SFU is iconic for its groundbreaking concrete architecture by Arthur Erickson, who won the architectural competition and contract for building the new campus in 1963. All the competing architects were given the opportunity to draft a design proposal for the 600 acre site on top of the mountain, beyond which the slopes were too precipitous to support buildings (Johnston, 49). The competition guidelines called for a design for an entire university, complete with library, administration, classrooms, office space, laboratories, theatre, gymnasium, bookstore, cafeteria, student dormitories, faculty housing, president's house, student union building, faculty club, and research institutes (Johnston, 53). Erickson's completed design provides a kind of self-contained town planning, although it primarily serves the academic community and did not contain residential areas for the general public. A masterplan document described "The new university was envisaged as a very urban complex set on a natural mountaintop-an acropolis for our time" (Endall Elliot Associates, 2010).

When Simon Fraser opened in 1965, it was applauded by a UBC professor as "neither urban nor rural, but a bold new university environment". Another fellow architect characterized the masterplan as "an urban campus in a rural setting", commenting that the buildings, with their self-contained environment of hard surfaces and formal spaces, were a place that would make more sense downtown (Johnston, 53). For Erickson, the university structure was an urban complex situated in a great natural setting, and one that is intended to eventually accommodate 18,000 students (Johnston, 53). Erickson himself was aware that one of the drawbacks of the university was its distance from the city of Vancouver. As a result, he advocated the provisioning of a large built in residential population and proposal for a new town centre on the edge of campus. With the recent development of UniverCity, high-rise buildings, shopping centres, and a school have been added, increasing its urban quality and appearance within a suburban Burnaby.

2.6. Personal Experiences at UBC and Descriptions of Campus

I was a resident on the University Endowment Lands (UEL) situated next to UBC for over five years while attending University Hill Secondary. In addition, I was also a student on the Point Grey campus for my undergraduate years; therefore part of this story has been influenced by my personal lived experiences and observations on campus in a ten-year span from about 2005 to 2015. Living there in high school, students colloquially called the University Marketplace “The Village” (this was before Wesbrook Village was developed) understood to be the main commercial, retail centre, which was a ten-minute walk from the high school. The other option for commercial services was to head out to West Point Grey’s West 10th street neighbourhood in the City of Vancouver, which involved crossing trails in Pacific Spirit Park and University Golf Course (a twenty-minute walk). As a UEL resident, I was always aware of the influence and large size of UBC as every September brought in a new group of neighbours on the streets, who occasionally marked their presence through partying and loud social gatherings. It had the feeling of a small town centre frequented by people who were at least several years older than me. I would not likely see teenagers in my age range spending their leisure time there. After a video game arcade closed in the Student Union Building, I felt that there was not that much of a reason to hang out at UBC and did not feel comfortable when someone asked me whether I was a UBC student. Occasionally I read books in the library but I did not have my own UBC library card and it felt like a lonely place at times. It would have been rather unusual to spot high school students or teenagers hanging out on the academic campus, especially during daytime university hours. Even though the campus was an active hub, it was not necessary for me to venture to the central campus for any commercial services or needs, such as the Student Union Building, since the University Marketplace was much closer.

UBC’s 1914 plan by Sharpe and Thompson drew from the City Beautiful Movement and organized the campus into an academic core surrounded by supporting uses. The plan responded to the need for “a university city in an idyllic setting” with “groups of buildings, so arranged that they shall lead up to one beautiful and harmonious scheme” (1992 Campus Plan, 10). The Point Grey Campus was built between 1923 and 1925 with three permanent buildings, Science Building, Main Library, and power plant to supply steam

heat and electricity⁵. The original plan entailed constructing “a monumental university of collegiate Gothic design to proclaim the glories of Great Britain”, although only a few semi-permanent frame buildings were built in that time period⁶. Major components of the Grand Plan were implemented in the 1940s, notably University Boulevard, Main, East, and West Malls, even though the campus grew modestly with many semi-permanent buildings due to chronic funding shortages. Remnants are still visible in the basic layout of the core campus (1992 Campus Plan, 11- 12). The rapid increase in the number of private vehicles led to the concept of a “walking campus”, with proposals for widened roads and new parking lots in the 1959 Campus Plan (1992 Campus Plan, 16). The 1968 Plan called for the construction of taller buildings in the academic core to allow for the preservation of landscape and gardens (1992 Campus Plan, 18). Several more campus plans followed in the upcoming decades, and it is evident from these early foundational plans that planners and architects always held ambitious urban aspirations for UBC as a land holding institution with potentials beyond, not merely a school.

Many of the descriptions of UBC provided by its planning team can also closely apply to SFU. UBC is physically and perceptually separated from the rest of the city by Pacific Spirit Park while SFU is separated from the rest of Burnaby by the Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area. This following description is from UBC’s 1992 campus plan, but it shares a remarkable similarity with SFU.

The remote and bucolic location does give the campus a special sense of self-contained and highly identifiable precinct set in a garden bounded by the forest. At the same time, the disadvantages of its location are acute: long commuting times for most people, low vitality during off hours, a strong sense of isolation, and a general lack of services and amenities. (1992 Campus Plan, 23)

At the time of this Campus Plan, UBC had the land footprint, road infrastructure, and daytime population which gives it urban or town qualities. However, the general lack of services and amenities suggests it was not entirely urban and less than a city. However, the Official Community Plan called for significant development of University Boulevard in 2001, including 18 story residential towers, retail shops alongside student businesses,

⁵ 1920–1929 - Tuum Est It is Yours.

<https://www.ubc.ca/stories/2015-fall/100-years-of-discovery/1920-1929/#event-tl-jfcx>

⁶ *ibid*

office space, and an underground bus loop. That vision of University Town was ultimately rejected as students signed petitions against development. “The battle over U-Blvd, had arguably been won”, editors at the Ubyyssey concluded, as the centre of campus space would remain a student-oriented space (Ubyyssey 90th Anniversary Booklet Oct 18 2008, 13). On the other hand, the Wesbrook Village development on UBC’s South Campus has been implemented since 2010, comprising a commercial town centre, new secondary school, local parks, and community centre. Housing in Wesbrook supports the UBC community with half of all units designated as “work-study”, meaning that at least one member of the household works or studies on campus.⁷ Wesbrook Village is another case study on its own that I do not include in this research due to its distance from the central campus areas. There are legal nuances around the development and governance of Wesbrook Village, as well as in UniverCity, in terms of policies and decision making but they do not impact the operations of core campus spaces represented in this study.

2.7. The Campus: Public or Private Space?

This is an important question as boundaries are not so obvious to visitors and any campus space user. SFU’s Burnaby campus is a unique case study because it is fundamentally a single massive concrete structure with an abundance of outdoor courtyard spaces in addition to its indoor hallways and classrooms. Anyone can walk up the stairs from the main campus transportation centre and onto the elevated walkways that connect the entire campus without being inconvenienced by locked doors, gates, or security guards. The physical structure of the campus seems to merge seamlessly into its complex of classrooms, offices, and services. There is less distinction at SFU than conventionally designed campuses in the experience of walking between buildings or inside a particular building because the general campus is all interconnected by walkways and sheltered pedestrian pathways. In this sense, this conception of the university is synonymous with the physical building itself. By definition, SFU is a public university and provides its own security services, in addition to the Safe Walk program that is available to any member of

⁷ “Wesbrook Village” UBC Campus and Community Planning

<https://planning.ubc.ca/planning-development/policies-and-plans/ubc-neighbourhood-planning/wesbrook-place>

the university community upon request 24 hours a day. Furthermore, SFU employs its own uniformed Patrol Operations Team with responsibilities that range from directing visitors to assisting with critical medical emergencies and severe weather situations. In this sense, SFU seeks to portray itself in an image of a secure educational environment that is visibly safer, more controlled, and more secured than the outside world.

The available security services imply that the university recognizes the impacts of crime on its educational mission as the effects of crime would harm its reputation among students who pay tuition for the privilege of studying there. Unlike a shopping mall that operates only during regular hours of a day, the campus can be viewed as more of an active community that functions at all times. Although the Burnaby campus has certain buildings that are open and closed to the public at certain times of the day, it is linked with residences and has public study spaces that are not restricted or gated off at night. From its numerous study spaces, computer labs, and library, the campus was designed for students in mind, but not all its services are limited to academics only. Services such as Canada's first 24/7 dining hall specifically states, "Everybody is welcome at the Dining Hall". However, discounted rates are offered to guests with SFU IDs, childcare staff, and parents of students⁸. Classes may operate during the day and parts of the evenings, but campus life clearly goes on at all times. There are no gated entry points where security guards ask for identification and therefore the university sends the underlying message that anyone is welcome to visit and walk around the campus. This is a significant observation as it conveys how the university manages its relationship with the outside world. In the past, SFU's distance from existing residential communities led to a sense of isolation with less neighbourhood interaction, for the reason that there was no other community on the mountain. That relationship has changed and SFU generally maintains an open relationship to the general public wanting to use the campus, with greater awareness of how to be good neighbours with the UniverCity community by sharing its spaces.

⁸ "Welcome to Canada's First 24/7 Dining Hall!" SFU Dining
<http://www.dineoncampus.ca/sfu/menus/locations/dining-hall>

2.8. Is the University a filtered environment of exclusion or integrated community institution?

Sophie Trawalter, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Psychology at the University of Virginia gave a presentation titled “On the Importance of Public Space: Are Universities and Colleges Welcoming to All?” (Trawalter, Sept 21 2017). Trawalter took a social psychology perspective to understand how public spaces can feel alienating to the poor and middle class, and perpetuate social class inequality. She recognized that many public spaces such as shopping malls and university campuses will not deny access to the poor and middle class. However, one can still wonder whether these spaces will feel welcoming or not to these people. Trawalter found that socioeconomic status consistently predicts perceptions and use of public space on the grounds of the University of Virginia. Her findings showed that lower socioeconomic students report feeling “out of place” on campus to the extent that they do not use public spaces on university grounds. At the same time, higher socioeconomic status students report feeling at home on campus and are more comfortable in utilizing university grounds. Moreover, Trawalter discovered informing lower socioeconomic status students that “public spaces” on university grounds are “public” was an effective way to boost their sense of belonging. I would be curious about how this might differ for universities in the Vancouver context, and what social, psychological factors may be at play for space users. While Trawalter’s University of Virginia case study considered students of contrasting socioeconomic status, it did not include data from how the general public perceived their presence on university grounds. A survey incorporating perceptions of campus space from students, families, and the general public at UBC and Vancouver would be a relevant future research topic.

Due to their suburban locations distant from the urban core, both UBC and SFU thrive as a kind of filtered space where many people arrive and stay there for specific purposes, namely participation in the institution of the university. In a departure from the exclusive nature of private universities, UBC’s founding president, Frank Wesbrook articulated a vision of “the people’s university” (McLean and Damer, 15). Wesbrook’s idealistic vision suggests the end goal of providing public goods in a public space that values diversity and inclusion, as illustrated in the conceptual framework (Figure 1). Following presidents have promoted the idea that UBC belongs to the people of the province and exists to serve

those people in their quest for a better life (McLean and Damer, 15). While it is true that universities have rigorous admission standards for degree programs, universities like UBC have taken major responsibility for the provision of educational programs and services to people other than those pursuing degrees. UBC Continuing Studies welcomes a diverse range of learners who can attend lectures, workshops, and conferences, sometimes without even needing to be physically on campus through distance education (McLean and Damer, 15). For a period of time in the 1970s, the Centre for Continuing Education promoted the ongoing education of seniors by enabling retirees the opportunity to participate free of charge in many programs (McLean and Damer, 183). In this way, both UBC and SFU could continue to be a selective and competitive environment in its core academic programs without being a place of exclusion to all others who are not classified as traditional students. UBC's Department of Continuing Education and SFU's Faculty of Lifelong Learning can all be considered efforts to evolve the university beyond its core academic role. The brochure of SFU Lifelong Learning 2018/2019 Community Report states:

Community engagement has always been central to Lifelong Learning's mandate. We are a front-facing pillar of the university, with low-and no-cost community initiatives as well as forward thinking programming that supports public engagement, community building and leadership in the public, private, and non-profit spheres. (SFU Lifelong Learning, 2)

This is consistent with the idea of incorporating designs for social diversity and social equity (Talen and Lee, 37). Policies that encourage the participation of lifelong learners into the institution promote diversity within the university. The idea of Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning recognizes students of different merits and backgrounds, which plays a role in preventing the entire university from segregating itself into an "ivory tower", where the academic world is distant from the everyday working lives of most people.

UBC student Tristan Markle expressed his displeasure against a commercial urban campus in an opinion letter titled "Save University Boulevard" in the April 10, 2007 edition of the *Ubyyssey*. Anticipating the redevelopment of the central campus into an underground bus loop along with market housing on top, he argued that "This is clearly a space used primarily for students and should cater to our needs: study space, social space, green space, plazas, and other suggestions made clear by students over the past few years". Student visions have not been implemented and he criticized the flawed consultation

process indicative of “perverted priorities”. “Universities are supposed to be model societies. What world class university has a shopping mall and market housing at its heart?” Markle wondered. This perspective rejects the notion that a model university needs to have diverse urban amenities such as retail shopping, or market housing, to be “great”. This opinion also excludes a range of urban universities located in city centres and commercial complexes from being “world class”, such as SFU’s Surrey Campus. There are universities integrated within office high-rise buildings and shopping malls, including the author’s current SFU Vancouver Harbour Centre campus located above a mall in downtown Vancouver. The way that UBC has developed and urbanized in recent years is in conflict with the traditional academic campus view, if one adheres to the model that a university campus consists of libraries, classrooms, and research buildings spread out over a green, landscaped lawn. In my site observations, I paid attention to how developments since the mid-2000s have affected the public functions of key public places on campus in their intended functions.

Since the start of its history, Simon Fraser was buzzing with activity. From the recollections of SFU professor David Stouck, known for his biography “Arthur Erickson: An Architect’s Life”, he recalled being awestruck by the mountain setting and the façade of the Academic Quadrangle when he arrived in 1966. He described the university’s central mall as a “gathering place and crossroads where all the campus activities merged in a “town square” consisting of library, theatre, bookstore, and student services. There were notice boards, a speaker’s lectern, benches, and containers with trees and shrubs. It was covered by glass. It was a place where students and faculty from all disciplines met, as they would on the streets and public squares of a small town and city” (Gibbons, 24). This portrayal is consistent with the common space of a company town or corporate environment but there is hardly any overlap with indicators of an outside community. The characterization of SFU as an university island on a mountain surrounded by a moat of forests with only two access roads in is harder to shake off but I would like to argue this is starting to change. UniverCity residents can study, work, and play all over SFU’s campus, due to their proximity and the university’s overall attractiveness. As I observed in the summer of 2019, the SFU Community Trust organized weekly summer block parties on the Town Square, adjacent to the university bus loop as well as central marketplace. The Simon Fraser University Student Society hosts free movie nights in the SFU Images Theatre, the listings of which are found online under SFU community events. With the

exception of the new Town Square, many central student places at SFU have not changed much after these years, in terms of their aesthetic in Arthur Erickson's original design. I strived to see how these spaces may have changed in their accessibility and programming to attract a wider audience than it initially intended. The land on which UniverCity is built belongs to SFU and all individual sites are leased for 99 years to developer and builders. The land remains under SFU's ownership once development has been completed by the SFU Community Trust, the current governing body of the UniverCity community development (Kim, 15). The development of UniverCity ultimately benefits continuing quality education and research at SFU. Similarly, the UBC Properties Trust is a private corporation intended to acquire, develop, and manage the UBC's lands and properties. Since it was created in 1988, financial returns in the form of endowment principal through developments such as the leasehold condominiums at Hampton Place were directed to core academic use, notably in the social sciences and humanities (Damer and Rosengarten, 245).

Chapter 3. Literature Review

The literature review I present here highlights theories from the disciplines of geography, sociology, and urban design. There are few case studies specifically on UBC or SFU and the Vancouver context; therefore I consulted existing research from global examples. I also discuss the factors surrounding accessibility of public space from the roles that design, spatial programming, security, and surveillance play in constructing space.

Talen and Lee's chapters "Separation vs. Diversity" and "Why Diversity" in the book "Design for Social Diversity" reference a wealth of academic literature to make cases for why social diversity is important in city planning and neighborhoods, as well as counter-arguments to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the complexity of issues involved. Although the authors did not explicitly analyze university campuses, UBC is becoming more of an urban community and has its own neighborhoods. There is no exact definition of the "socially diverse neighborhood", but scholars consider the mixing of residents by race/ethnicity, income level or wealth to be essential, as well as by age, family type and households (Sarkissian, 231-233). On the basis of age, UBC can be summarized as a relatively homogenous and youthful community, as 87% of 44,378 undergraduate students on the Vancouver campus were 25 years of age or under, according to the UBC Annual Report on Enrollment for 2017/2018. For the 9,941 graduate students, 28% are between the ages of 21-25 (UBC Annual Report on Enrollment, 2018). The SFU distribution chart of students for Fall 2018 shows a mean age of 21.2 for fulltime undergraduate students⁹. The total number of undergraduate students enrolled at the Burnaby campus is 20,845 in the Fall 2018 semester, making up 81% of the entire student population¹⁰. The mean age of graduate students for Fall 2018 is 32.9¹¹. Certainly, the

⁹ Institutional Research and Planning. Graph ST-09 Undergraduate Distribution by Full-time/Part-time Status, Fall 2018

<https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/irp/students/documents/graphST09.pdf>

¹⁰ Institutional Research and Planning. Graph ST-40 Undergraduate Headcount by Location of Courses Taken—2018/19

¹¹ *ibid.* Graph ST-21 Graduate Age Distribution

<https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/irp/students/documents/graphST21.pdf>

daytime campus population consists of more than only undergraduate and graduate students and data for space users become more complicated when one considers visitors and non-university affiliated residents living on or close to campus.

Talen and Lee recognized that a diverse neighborhood may have teenagers and elderly persons; married couples and singles, all sorts of professionals, affluent families and people on fixed incomes, harbouring a full range of human complexity (Talen and Lee, 23). They charted a conceptual framework of factors that explain diversity, including historical, economic, social factors, physical, locational factors and policy-related factors as causes of diverse places. While Talen and Lee focused largely on the urban American context and did not specifically discuss post-secondary institutions, schools continue to act as gatekeeper and significant source of social separation, as there is still segregation by race and class (Talen and Lee, 19). Therefore, there is a strong general relationship between segregation by race, poverty, and educational inequality in the United States. In the United States, public schools attended by Black and Hispanic children have double the poverty rates of schools attended by White children (Talen and Lee, 19).

Talen and Lee summarized many points for the benefits of urban diversity, based on the view that neighbourhood-level social diversity is essential by pointing out place vitality and economic health. There is the generally accepted view that diversity of industries in proximity generates growth, rather than specialization within a given industry. On the surface, this is contrary to UBC's position as player in a post-industrial knowledge-based economy. It can be said that the majority of UBC's student and staff population is educated to at least some post-secondary levels. It has recently developed commercial areas with stores and services that cater to a local clientele. When the residential population at UBC is more diverse, those employed in these services should not have to travel from outside the community to be employed there. Interaction among diverse peoples helps generate contacts needed for individual success (Talen and Lee, 35). By definition, the role of a full-time student means the individual is out of the labour market. At the same time, students are not normally classified to be living in poverty as they presumably have other sources of income, such as from part time jobs, scholarships, bursaries, and support from family members. UBC can benefit from place diversity as it can help build social capital by widening networks of social interaction, when students interact with members of the community who differ in their levels of education, employment, and period in life, for

example. Likewise, SFU is in a position to enrich its campus community by its proximity to UniverCity, a community that previously did not exist prior to the mid 2000s. According to the February 2019 UniverCity resident survey, about 45% of households report a member associated with SFU, including faculty, students, or staff (Mustel Group, 2019). This signals that more than half of households are not associated with SFU, although they may take advantage of its library, recreational, food, cultural, and other public services. About a third of residents mention the sense of community on Burnaby Mountain as a positive aspect, and 21% liked the proximity to SFU. Although more than three quarters of UniverCity residents own the property they currently occupy, only 6% of the properties were purchased to provide accommodation for a student within their family. Clearly, many homeowners recognize the strengths a university can bring to their community, and conversely, the university can evolve to accommodate users who are normally perceived as members of the university's academic community.

I emphasize social equity as a key result of social diversity in the university context on the basis of providing equal educational opportunities for students and the public to encounter each other. Social diversity ensures better access to resources for all social groups by nurturing the “geography of opportunity”. Specifically, the “geography of opportunity” refers to the linkages between where someone lives and the opportunities provided at that location, including employment, education, shopping, and the full range of social contacts and services important to daily life (McClure, 317). In the context of SFU and UBC, the university community consists of many workers and staff who commute to work on campus, while there are relatively fewer services available to attract them to stay after their work shift ends. The university prioritizes rental housing for faculty and staff but its privileged location on limited land is a barrier to housing for lower-income and marginalized groups. Examining how university programmings caters to non-student demographics, including children, yields clues in describing the institution's relationship with the outside urban community. Indicators of spatial diversification that accommodates users beyond the academic community can be viewed as desires and efforts to integrate with neighbours. Encountering the full spectrum of a community is “thought to be essential for a child's education because it teaches them that they are part of a larger culture, that they have a role in, and can participate in, a shared society” (Talen and Lee, 41). Although university students are no longer children, it remains educational for students and adults to learn from and interact with a wider society. Diversity is seen as a utopian ideal because mixing

population groups is the basis of a better, more creative, more tolerant, more peaceful and stable world (Talen and Lee, 37). Following this line of thought, many more community members as well as users sharing common spaces on campus can benefit from the creativity, social capital and cross-fertilization that occurs when people of different backgrounds, and income-levels are mixed. This research focuses on whether and how universities may play this role through accessibility and spatial planning efforts.

3.1. Case Study of Social Geography of University Students

Chatterton explored and analyzed the social geographies of university students in Bristol, which has parallels to UBC, in terms of having perceived space of socialization for students in contrast with the “outside” world. He uncovered the provision of popular culture in Bristol City Centre which caters to the cohort of “traditional” students. “Traditional” students here represent the majority of university students in Britain between the ages of 18-21. In the case study of Bristol, they tend to be white, from privileged socio-economic backgrounds, attended private schools, and travel away from home to university (Chatterton, 118). Non-traditional students tend to be classified as “mature” in age and are characterized by the other roles they perform, such as “parent-student” and “worker-student”, which renders their identity as students less visible (Chatterton, 119). Definitions of traditional and non-traditional students can be modified for the Vancouver context, and based upon enrollment figures from UBC and SFU, I can adopt the term “traditional student” broadly for undergraduates of age 25 and under, and non-traditional for the undergraduate students age 26 and over, who are more likely to be parents or returning students who have previously joined the workforce. Due to the provisioning of spaces catered to the traditional student cohort, this results in an infrastructure of student-focused venues which create “pathways” of activities through the city. There are privileged sites of consumption within this infrastructure, the use of which is motivated by strong desire for association among traditional students.

The idea of “social spatialization” is relevant in constructing spaces associated with students as well as the general public. The construction of spaces designed to accommodate diverse groups promotes an atmosphere of accessibility. Experiences within,

and use of these spaces allow students to embed and reinforce their identity as a student. They are also sites of “social centrality” where the rules, rituals of studenthood are undertaken and learned (Chatterton, 120). UBC and SFU have similar events to Bristol University’s “Freshers Fair”, such as the “Welcome Back Barbeque” and “First Week” (“Week of Welcome” at SFU), which serve as one of the first and most important introductions to the framework of traditional student life (Chatterton, 121). Marketing teams and various publications expend much energy courting the student population to entice their loyalty. At UBC, these practices reinforce the notion of a prioritized space catering to the student demographic. The university and traditional student spaces act as a homebase for students. As their academic career progresses, students experiment and explore less traditional student spaces and venues within the city by moving away from the confines of the university. There are students who venture into parts of the city that are not associated with student culture while there are other students who regard certain areas as “off-limits” as their identity contrasts with that of traditional student areas (Chatterton, 122). If social spatialization and constructed social geographies exist at university spaces for the student population, then it is conceivable to me that there are outside people who do not regard the university as a suitable area for venturing. The campus is intended to service a particular social group oriented towards research and academics rather than cater to a general urban population with diverse commercial, industrial, and employment needs.

Student-focused environments fulfill a desire for association, for the possibility of meeting other students as well as safety from outsiders (Chatterton, 125). Some venues that occupy a privileged space and time for students are associated with a relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere. Chatterton’s study suggested that student-focused environments and infrastructure build contentment among traditional students, while also existing to increase student safety and reduce risk of violence. Many traditional students display a limited use of the city as their world is more removed from less traditional student groups, as well as the non-student world (Chatterton, 129). As evident from the name, “the Formation of Exclusive Geographies”, the implications from Chatterton’s paper suggests a social divergence and gap between campus space and the rest of the city, taking into account student’s evolving perceptions of outside areas and safety concerns. In Bristol, Chatterton found that many traditional students display an increasing but still limited use of the city, which may be attributed to increasing work, financial pressures, and a desire to socialize at home with other students (Chatterton, 129). In contrast to Talen

and Lee's advocacy for greater social diversity in urban areas, the university is highlighted as a place of exception because it is not a typical urban community and serves as a kind of sheltered space where students perceive a greater degree of safety and association. When sections of the city are devoted to residential or entertainment provisions for students, "such areas become ghettoized" as "tension and conflict emerges along the fringes where student and non-student identities come into contact" (Chatterton, 131). Chatterton followed this observation by recognizing that an important aspect of higher education policy and urban planning policy would be to recognize the dynamic that happens in certain British cities because there is "a segregated growth of a population of middle- and upper-class adolescent outsiders" (Chatterton, 131). Chatterton's portrait of the university strongly characterized a community intended as a home and socialized space for a particular age demographic. Older, non-traditional students are not framed or tied down to this institutionalized environment in the same way as their younger counterparts, due to the various other roles they perform in society. On the other hand, social diversity is important for the long term economic and social vitality in any community, especially for a district as large as UBC or SFU. Encountering a world of difference and the richness of human communities socializes humans to be better neighbours with one another.

3.2. The Geography of School and Students

In his guide, "Town & Gown: From Conflict to Cooperation", Michael Fox identified the characteristics and challenges between universities and their communities. They present unique planning and community development considerations, as well as negative perceptions about off-campus student behaviour in near-campus neighbourhoods where students tend to concentrate (Fox, 1). Geographer Darren Smith coined the concept of "studentification", where there are social and environmental changes caused by large numbers of students "invading" areas of a town or city, causing a displacement of many long-time residents (Fox, 4). Studentification is an indicator of a populous and thriving campus with substantial demands for local student housing, such as UBC and SFU. When the student population looks for housing, the effects are large enough to cause social and environmental changes to parts of the metro area. A university with a high degree of studentification is more likely to have a thriving student culture either on or off campus.

Geographer Blake Gumprecht defined a college town as “one where having a post-secondary institution within the community actually creates its own form of culture, and that this culture feature exerts a dominant influence over the character of the town”. The examples are typically smaller cities, which have a level of about 20 percent ratio between students and the overall population of that place (Fox, 11). Neither Vancouver nor Burnaby fits Gumprecht’s college town model, both being large populous cities. However, a stroll around SFU’s UniverCity neighbourhood and UBC’s Wesbrook Village or University Marketplace reveals that they are youthful places. From a visual observation and personal experience, I agree with Gumprecht’s statements on college towns. There is an annual cycling of young, mostly single adults from 18 to 24 years of age, together with the annual arrival of new students and exodus of graduates, which guarantees a unique community dynamic. There are newer residential communities by UBC and SFU, both of which are comparatively affluent, highly-educated, have high living costs, have many residents that are more likely to rent, are transient places, and cosmopolitan (Fox, 13-14). The cycle of “boom and bust” periods for students between September and May, with their return home for holidays, creates cycles of population expansion and contraction. This affects the usages of public spaces on campus when college towns seem to go into hibernation during times that are normally busy in other places. Universities such as UBC and SFU command a consistent and stabilizing influence for their communities. They are both publicly-funded and have large donor, endowment support for their operation. At the same time, there is a large percentage of students who are not employed. Many students have external sources of funding that will be spent in that community, where there will be diverse services and cultural events. Local residents are often beneficiaries of such diverse events and have access to amenities like a wide range of ethnic foods, cultural activities, sporting events, or music festivals tied to the cultural diversity of the overall student community (Fox, 14). Part of my research attempts to understand whether a large proportion of public events on major university spaces are targeted exclusively at students and the academic community. On the other hand, events of interest to members of the general public signal a greater use of universities serving a wider civic function. Fox noted that many college towns with just a few thousand people will often boast facilities such as sports complexes, Olympic-sized indoor pools, major football stadiums, libraries, art galleries, and bookstores. The campus-community relationship is both an advantage and disadvantage to the immediate community in terms of economic impact, indirect costs and

benefits, housing, transportation, infrastructure demands, and an enhanced cultural, recreational, and volunteer-rich community (Fox, 16).

Gill Valentine's textbook "Social Geographies: Space & Society" provided a wealth of perspectives from social geography that can be applicable to the university environment. In the chapter on Institutions, schools are defined as being built of two worlds. First, there is the world of the institution, a controlled formal school world of official structures, with timetables, and lessons organized on a principle of spatial segregation by age. The second part is the informal world of students, with their social networks and peer group cultures (Valentine, 144). Although these definitions are based on studies of grade-school children, it offered a critical lens to examine social geographies of the university. Schools are places where children are not only cared for but also "contained". Although almost all university students are adults over the age of majority (19 years old) and have the volition to decide their own education, the analogy of a spatial compartmentalization of people into a compulsory institutional setting is a powerful one. To complete their program or degrees, it is essential to attend classes and sometimes be housed on campus, especially for students without local connections. Even though post-secondary education is not compulsory by law, unlike basic primary education, a number of students may still feel that they are obligated to be there for various reasons. Many students experience stress from various sources, including social and family expectations, to complete a diploma or bachelor's degree before they feel qualified to advance in this competitive workforce.

3.3. Social Reproduction at Universities

In addition to being schools, UBC and SFU are also workplaces. As major employers, they act as organizations which attempt to shape the bodies and identities of those who work in them. Employees' bodies are more than merely reflections of wider social relations but are product of organizational dynamics and ability of these institutions to wield power and construct meanings (Valentine, 155). Like any employer, workplace meals and parties hosted by both universities are 'social' events that are institutionalized. Events and ceremonies like speeches, award ceremonies are important parts of the ritual to reproduce shared meaning systems as part of an organization's culture (Valentine, 156). The

environment at universities are institutionally reinforced and socially reproduced to maintain a structured and orderly space. UBC has orderly landscaped streets, which have been recently rebuilt as pedestrian malls. SFU has an elaborate network of sheltered pedestrian corridors and courtyard spaces which may confuse outside visitors who are unfamiliar with its layout. It takes time for students and staff to learn how to navigate important landmarks by heart and become an “inside member” before the campus starts to feel like home. Both UBC and SFU can be characterized as a kind of guarded community with notions of public space that hides from us the extent to which the public realm is being privatized and commodified, similar to how Don Mitchell describes shopping malls. For some writers, in order for a place to be maintained as ‘public’, it needs to be used frequently by a wide mixture of people (Valentine, 200). Marshall Berman argued for ‘open-minded space’ to be the goal of public space. They should be planned so that they are open to encounters between people of all different classes, races, ages, religions, ideologies, cultures and stances towards life (Valentine, 201). As I continued researching, I found there are nuances on the extent that the UBC campus (and SFU) exists as a public or private space. This is a notion that UBC geography professor Geraldine Pratt addressed during a forum: “Well in fact UBC’s not a public space...When the TAs went on strike at UBC years ago, one of the moves that the university wanted to try to make was to, you know, stop the capacity to strike by declaring it’s not a public space. So yeah, the whole debate around public space and the university is a really complicated one (Bitter and Muntadas, 41).” From this discourse, UBC can be described as an institution that is generally hands off to controlling space, allowing it to exist with a strong illusion of publicness, until it acts to protect its own interests.

3.4. A Global Example

The text “Global Universities and Urban Development”, edited by Wiewel and Perry, examined case studies of university developments around the world. I considered parallel examples to UBC and SFU, showing how other institutions have expanded while maintaining public spaces. It traced the changes of institutions such as the University of

Helsinki, which has historically adhered to an academic mission of “higher education and academic research”, but has recently become market-driven and “entrepreneurial”. To the author, this reconfiguration of the state purposes of academic land for market-oriented uses is significant as it is revealing about the changing state (Perry and Wiewel, 11). A comparable global example that I read into is the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), which includes University City (CU), one of the most extended university campuses and one of the largest single tracts of urban property in the world (Perry and Wiewel, 119). The CU campus is not a walled site and it is also used as a public park by local residents. Like UBC, local municipal police do not go on the university grounds. In UBC’s situation, there is a Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment on campus because the land is outside Vancouver City limits. UNAM is notable for creating a quasi-autonomous municipality with the university authorized to impose property taxes on owners of land. The revenue from leased land, sale of developed land, and property taxes would go towards the constructions and operations of the university (Perry and Wiewel, 128). In the Metro Vancouver context, this would be understood as an endowment. The development of SFU’s UniverCity enabled an Endowment Fund to support teaching and research, “allowing SFU to leverage the value of its land holdings to support its academic mission” (Urban Strategies et al, 2019). UBC had an earlier start in the development of its residential community. Since the 1990s, land lease proceeds have contributed to approximately 30% of the total value of the UBC Endowment (UBC Planning)¹². UniverCity has so far contributed \$38.9 million to the SFU Endowment Fund for research and education, with the goal of reaching \$150 million in current dollars by the time the community is built out¹³. It is forecast that UniverCity will reach a population of up to 10,000 in 2021 based on the official community plan (Favron, 2017).

¹² UBC Endowment <https://planning.ubc.ca/vancouver/about-us/ubc-endowment>

¹³ UniverCity: Sustainability <http://univercity.ca/sustainability/>

3.5. Factors contributing to accessibility of space

The first factor of my conceptual framework that determines the level of publicness is accessibility and design. Accessibility is a broad term that can be considered in many ways. In his work "City: Rediscovering the Center", William Whyte listed accessibility in terms of "Circulation and Access", and "Access for the Physically Disabled" (Whyte, 345). As an observer of how people behave and react to plans of architects and urban engineers, Whyte focused on the visible and what he could see. As discussed later in the methodology, the Németh and Schmidt index examines material practices and design features and how they impact the perceived publicness of space. Because community spaces have dual roles of reinforcing community and enabling exclusion, there is a kind of duality at play that is an inherent feature of much public space. Community space may be the most ambiguous of all public spaces as it is used to create communities that have real meaning for people, but can at the same time exclude others in ways that are damaging, discriminatory, or unfair (Shepard and Smithsimon, 43). My readings of university documents, as well as interviews with university architects and planners showed that they all agree in the goal of primarily providing spaces for students, while also making the environment pleasant for all other members of the public. Shepard and Smithsimon provided examples of urban plazas constructed by developers adjacent to high-rise buildings in Harlem, Manhattan. They were designated as open community spaces, but none of these spaces are expected to be used at will by the public at large, as they are associated with particular institutions expected by designers to have meaning to the community (Shepard and Smithsimon, 42). The plans for community space reflected the desire of residents for local control and opposition to the state office building. Locals argued the building development was the first step in the displacement of Harlem's main street, ahead of displacement of the Black community to make room for corporate interests (Shepard and Smithsimon, 43). Although the context for UBC and SFU is different from urban gentrification, plans for university spaces still show high priority for a particular community. Both campuses were carved out from forests adjacent to the city, therefore existing urban residents were never pushed out or relocated following the construction of these campuses. However, as I will address in Chapter 4, the First Nations, including Musqueam at UBC, were displaced from their traditional lands as a result of university construction in Canada. If the needs of the academic community are not reflected in the

campus plan, then the concern is that campus spaces will be less distinct or become indistinguishable from public spaces in other parts of the city.

3.6. Urban Refuges from the City?

UBC and SFU contain spacious retreats where one can venture in order to escape vehicular traffic and flows of pedestrians. Either one of these campuses have pockets of calm that can function as a refuge or oasis from the city, similar to successful urban plazas and parks. William Whyte studied New York plazas and small parks for many years and only mentioned three places having real trouble, all of them badly designed and managed. Whyte gave the example of New York's spacious Bryant Park that was designed in a philosophic premise of being a refuge from the city, free from the hustle and bustle of pedestrians. The park had relatively few entrances in order to discourage pedestrian flows (Whyte, 159). The result was a park that became underused in relation to its size and central location, except by undesirables, including drug dealers, with people standing at the entrances to mark it as their place. A coalition of civic groups and neighbouring corporations launched an effort to redeem the park through various programming, including food kiosks, bookstalls, and a glassed-in grand café, aiming to open the park up to the street (Whyte, 160). In the context of UBC and SFU, their main prominent open spaces, such as UBC's University Commons and SFU's Convocation Mall, are a distance away from their cities of Vancouver or Burnaby. Several spaces in my study, including UBC's University Commons and SFU's AQ Gardens, are physically only accessible to pedestrians as the nearest roads are closed off to non-service vehicles. However, due to their natures of being major employers and institutions that attract a high commuter population, it is always ensured there will be a regular user base. It should be pointed out that many of these space users on a university site during a given day will be there for convenience due to its proximity rather than always by choice or for its great beauty (although both campuses are quite scenic with mountain views on clear days). Users of university-managed spaces at UBC and SFU do not have the option of choosing a "non-university space" enclave within their university unless they physically leave campus.

My second conceptual framework point linked to influencing publicness is spatial programming. Throughout the school year, UBC and SFU provide a multitude of events for students, the academic community, and the occasional major general public event. Jane Jacobs used more examples from New York City, and argued the requirements for a truly diverse neighbourhood or community; there needs to be the greatest possible diversity of land uses, buildings, and consequently, as well as most importantly, the greatest possible range of different users, throughout the day and night (Crossley, 293). However, it may be argued that UBC and SFU are considered exceptions to these recommendations, as they are not American cities or even intended to function as wholly “true cities” akin to the cases Jane Jacobs examined extensively in her classic “The Life and Death of Great American Cities”. According to Jacobs, if neighbourhoods and districts where parks and large greenspaces are developed lack diversity or vitality, then the parks do not bring new life and activity to their respective neighbourhoods or districts.

You can neither lie to a neighbourhood park, nor reason with it...in real life only diverse surroundings have the practical power of inducing a natural, continuing flow of life and use. Superficial architectural variety may look like diversity, but only a genuine content of economic and social diversity, resulting in people with different schedules, has meaning to the park and the power to confer the boon of life upon it. (Jacobs, 101)

The general conditions of the commuter school contributed to limited economic and social diversity, which was largely the case with both UBC and SFU before the development of market housing targeted at non-students and staff. The majority daytime students follow a common schedule and once commuter students leave campus to go home, the university can feel less bustling and set a slower pace. The reader can feel free to note the contrast by visiting the university centre on weekends and a day during the summer semester compared to a weekday morning at the start of the fall semester. This exercise would reveal the concentrated social and economic focus of the academic schedule more than anything else. Would the relative inactivity of university public spaces outside of the academic program schedule necessarily signal that these spaces are unsuccessful? From his synthesis of readings and discussing the issue of public space to the proposed Burnaby Mountain Community, SFU geography student Dave Crossley wrote in 1999, “Looking back on the goals of creating successful, vibrant public spaces, it is clear that there needs to be a focus on serving a variety of users, for a variety of functions. Evidence indicates that often the most successful public spaces take forms which serve a variety of uses and users”, including people relaxing, socializing, playing, entertaining, people young

and old, etc. (Crossley, 35). Therefore, from this statement, it appears that university spaces are not living up to their potential as full active, public spaces, if they are not intensely used and accessible to as wide a variety of potential users possible. To be intensely used, it needs to be located centrally, close to as wide a variety of possible land uses and buildings, in order to be accessible to as wide a variety of potential users as possible (Crossley, 37).

In Jacob's view, the successful neighbourhood or community needs to be built first, and this calls for diversity in land uses, building types, diversity of people from different ages, socio-economic background, and people with differing connections to the community (Crossley, 38). A glance at UBC's online events schedule at www.events.ubc.ca for December 2019 and outline for 2020 reveals scheduled music concerts, sporting events, and fundraisers happening at various locations on campus. I take note of programming on my selected outdoor spaces and learned that free yoga classes tailored for all ages, and levels takes place at University Commons by the AMS Nest every Wednesdays in the summer. The website for SFU events around the same time period at <http://www.sfu.ca/sfu-community/events.html#!view/all> listed more lectures, workshops, and information sessions grouped by different departments. I did not see any events scheduled to take place outdoors at AQ courtyard or Convocation Mall, as all events are indoors. This is understandable due to changing weather conditions on the mountain, and as I get into later, many notable campus events that make the news and generate conversation are unplanned in advance.

Security and surveillance is the final factor I outlined on the conceptual framework. An overabundance of visible security and surveillance often generates suspicion that a space is not safe enough to operate without significant police presence. Critics of policing tactics argue that good places are fundamentally self-policing (Németh and Schmidt 2007, 286). This is reflected in Németh and Schmidt's methodology, where higher visible security in the forms of patrolling staff and cameras deduct points off the public accessibility of spaces. In addition to the official hired surveillance from employees and security guards, everyday surveillance also comes from the myriad of people who can observe streets and public spaces from their own spaces, whether it be from their windows, doorsteps, or shop windows, to casually observe what is going on nearby. Jacobs referred to this as "eyes on the street" (Jacobs, 54). With this taken into account, various building types and residential

neighbours with windows, commercial and office services with street oriented views can also contribute to a general feeling of safety for users in public space. Safety is closely linked with issues of neighbourhood diversity, and the level of active public life. Being large campuses, there have been safety incidents over the years at both UBC and SFU, but programs like Safe Walk¹⁴, direct dial emergency phones¹⁵, and Campus Community Shuttle¹⁶ at SFU help alleviate concerns and contribute to a general feeling of well-being.

3.7. Methodology for Evaluating Public Spaces

The literature also provides guidance on the methods of studying public space. In recent years, much attention has been paid to security in public spaces. Owners and managers of parks and plazas cite concerns over potential security threats as justification for increasing behavioral control. Németh and Schmidt noticed a lack of tools to conduct analysis on studying the control of public spaces and have designed an index that allows city officials, researchers, and citizens to “empirically quantify the degree to which behavioral control is exerted over users of publicly accessible spaces” (Németh and Schmidt, 284). The focused units of analysis are on parks, squares, and plazas, both publicly and privately owned, referring to them as publicly accessible spaces.

UBC is a publicly accessible campus with numerous open plazas and parks that do not appear to be physically guarded. However, there could be other latent features that influence the way the space is used. In the report by UBC geography students, “Accessing Vancouver’s Privately Owned Public Spaces”, it is observed that many spaces in downtown Vancouver no longer only exist in the context of the 9am to 5pm daytime work schedule that they have been designed for, such as office workers on

¹⁴ Personal Safety on Campus

<https://www.hr.ubc.ca/wellbeing-benefits/workplace-health/personal-safety-on-campus/>

¹⁵ Safety Programs

<https://www.sfu.ca/srs/campus-safety-security/public-safety/safety-programs.html>

¹⁶ Campus Community Shuttle

<https://www.sfu.ca/parking/shuttle.html>

lunch break, as the downtown core has undergone immense residential densification. Daytime workers have been supplanted by a more mixed and flexible population of workers and consumers alike (Rahi et al., 24). Similarly, UBC, the Endowment Lands, and SFU alike have also experienced an increase in residential construction and densification in recent years, creating several new communities and residential bases that did not exist previously.

Political theorist Iris Marion Young argued that successful public places must be universally accessible, and also contribute to democratic inclusion by encouraging interactions between acquaintances and strangers (Németh and Schmidt 2007, 285). In her work, "Justice and the Politics of Difference", Young remarked that social differentiation without exclusion and variety are some of the virtues in a normative city. By definition, the meaning of public is what is open and accessible and not exclusionary. In an open and accessible public forum, one should expect to encounter and hear from those who are different (Young, 119). Cities provide important public spaces, including streets, parks, and plazas, where people interact, mingle, and witness one another without being unified in a community of "shared final ends". It can be safe to say that the majority of university students all aspire to successfully complete their programs and graduate, therefore sharing a common goal. Places like UBC's Lee and Money plaza by the Student Union Building plays a role as a kind of open urban space that is designed for the intersection of different student bodies from various faculties with members of the general public. However, it is recognized that ideal spaces serving as "the material location where social interactions and public activities of all the members occur" is utopian and the ideal of a universally inclusive and unmediated space can never be met (Németh and Schmidt 2007, 285). From this reasoning, ideal publicly accessible spaces are those that encourage social interaction among the most diverse set of users possible, despite the fact that the spatial inclusion of different people does not necessarily lead to social interaction. On the other hand, Németh and Schmidt did not claim that the most open or accessible spaces are always the most successful, since people have their own set of ideals for spaces that ranges in terms of liberty and personal security (Németh and Schmidt 2007, 285).

Although intended for evaluating privately owned public spaces in a central business district context, the index is applicable to university contexts as well, considering its

social richness and daytime pedestrian traffic. Checking for variables like visible security cameras, security personnel, business services, and small scale design that control usage, are relevant to large universities like UBC. Spaces can be managed through either hard, active or soft, passive control measures. Users of the index are encouraged to obtain empirical data, with multiple visits to the same place in order to check its validity (Németh and Schmidt, 290). The authors suggested that the systematic application of this index in a longitudinal study can allow researchers to monitor the changing presence and intensity of control in public spaces. It is also possible to empirically test claims of whether some of the most popular publicly accessible places are also ones that exert the most control over spaces, which would be approaching a score of -20 in this index, or vice versa. In the context of my project, it helped me determine how public spaces in the heart of UBC's academic campus are integrating with its new neighbours and the rest of Vancouver. As Németh and Schmidt concluded, the index has important applications for neighbourhood and community groups, local residents, students, and public and private organizations concerned about the steady erosion of civil liberties in the public realm (Németh and Schmidt, 294). Moreover, using this index with empirical evidence helped me determine to what extent campus spaces developed into more urban spaces with a healthy social mix and balance of uses, including being used for academic purposes and families alike. I adapted this methodology to compare a couple of key public spaces at both UBC and SFU to learn how their accessibility and spatial programming vary from one another. Their respective scores can be used to determine whether recently developed spaces are designed and perceived to be more accessible by users in comparison to older sites. This allows a look into whether planning policies and priorities have shifted over time to accommodate a greater variety of activities.

As Jennifer Natland noted in her 2007 study of public spaces around Columbia Street in downtown New Westminster, one important criterion of accessibility asks whether the study area is well connected to a variety of transportation modes with outside areas. One can examine whether the area has strong road, transit, cycling, and pedestrian connections, while evaluating the quality of surrounding areas and location connections. Natland's project appears more focused on a holistic urban design rubric and appropriate for streets spaces. The rubric she developed for her study utilized considers several more aspects of public space in addition to accessibility: good form, legibility, vitality, meaning, comfort, and security (Natland, 27-30). Each of the five criteria for a category

such as “Vitality” is ranked from 0 to 5, and scored according to an estimate of the percentage of time that it is satisfied for, with a total possible score of 25. Although this is a comprehensive method of evaluating public spaces, the criteria I choose to adapt are accessibility and security. The tables used in the methodology presents salient points on the connectedness, convenience, and safety that each place is for different transportation modes, including transit stops and cycling routes. However, because the percentage of time something is observed for is only an estimation rather than exact measurement, I consider Natland’s scoring method less precise and it can only be used as a supplemental rating for my purposes.

Devereux’s and Littlefield’s recent literature review was undertaken “to better understand the academic context and literature around the perceived phenomenon of the privatisation of public space”. Many of the broader key questions addressed in the literature review are relevant to my question of evaluating the accessibility of public spaces managed by universities. In addition to being serviced by RCMP (UBC) and civic police (SFU), universities employ their own security team, who are given specialized training appropriate for their academic environment. The authors summarize the nuances of these questions by stating “If there is consensus within the literature, it is that public space and the role of ownership is harder to define than one might think. Ideas of public space, especially within urban environments, are complex and nuanced, and the varying models of governance being developed globally underline such subtlety and variety” (Devereux and Littlefield, 5). The policies to uncover at the heart of my research would be to pinpoint what kinds of guidelines exist for acceptable campus behaviour and whether there are social groups or activities that are either discouraged, given limitations, or restricted completely. The observation that there are multiple publics with different needs that shift in character and expectation over time contributes to the recognition that if “all spaces were designed to appeal to everyone at all times, there is a danger they would appeal to nobody” (Devereux and Littlefield, 5). As central campus spaces, it is understandable that students and the academic community are given priority to their spatial usage. The UBC campus plan stated the important conclusion drawn from a survey is that “the University should be planned as the large and multifaceted community it is, a community generated by the academic endeavour but not limited to purely academic functions” (1992 UBC Campus Plan, 27). Therefore, academic endeavours are

considered at the heart of community campus planning and programming, even though other functions exist in the wider community.

To enquire further into the different definitions of public spaces and the extent to which a place can be called public because the public puts it to use, one can examine the “spatial, legal, and behavioural characteristics which can be observed at the boundaries between private and publicly owned spaces” (Devereux and Littlefield, 5). Carmona wrote that the “public” in public space “is not a coherent, unified group but a fragmented society of different socio-economic groups, further divided by age and gender (Carmona et al, 2003). Each part of this fragmented society will relate to public space (and to each other) in different and complex ways” (Devereux and Littlefield, 8). This can be likened to the divided roles of the public at SFU and UBC where there will be a majority of younger undergraduate students sharing the space with a smaller percentage of older grad students, faculty and staff, as well as the general public. Even among the academic community, members have various jobs and tasks, which influence the locations and times people spend on campus. For Sennett, the public realm is the place and opportunity for people to see, meet, and engage with others in society. Encounters can be organized events or take place by chance, encompassing an endless range of activities (Sennett, 1976). In this view, universities are the forum where public events and social meetings can take place, administrative rules, code of conduct, and ultimate authority to oversee public events can dampen the perception that spaces on campus are truly civic spaces. Atkinson expressed doubt that civic public gathering places, despite their labelling as “public” could be used by anyone in the past, as he or she saw fit, since rules, code of behaviour, and social norms have always been applied to such places (Atkinson, 2003).

There is a crucial relationship between public space and democracy, because the city is seen as a place where people can canvas their political or religious views, demonstrate and protest (Watson, 2006). The extent that university public spaces also play the role of civic spaces is one of my indicators in evaluating their accessibility to the general public. Pratt’s observation that UBC wanted to stop a union strike by declaring it as not public space suggests the notion that the university has legal authority to step in when it deems certain activities unacceptable. Spaces that are not democratic, such as new squares in the City of London, have rules and regulations enforced by uniformed

private security and round-the-clock surveillance (Minton, October 26 2011). Unlike these squares in London, UBC and SFU have their own security detail with all day surveillance, but they do not prohibit a host of seemingly innocuous activities like cycling, rollerblading, or eating in most of their public spaces, unless otherwise noted. The structure of SFU's Convocation Mall, however, is designed in such a way that it is not accessible for biking, as it is connected through a network of indoor hallways and stairs.

Sociologist Evelyn Ruppert noted that the values of public space are often celebrated and promoted in urban studies literature. Public space is represented as a forum that encourages mingling and encounters between people of different classes, races, ages, religions, ideologies, and cultures, which serves as a breeding ground for mutual respect, political solidarity, tolerance, and civil discourse (Ruppert, 1). This appears to parallel the idea of public universities, which strives to reward students on their merits and achievements, rather than different cultural, economic background. Public spaces are the spaces of encounters between strangers, people outside the life of family and close friends, and within the region of diverse, complex social groups. The relevant question to ask in the context of campuses, is are university public spaces truly spaces of encounters between strangers, from diverse, complex social groups? The student bodies of large universities such as UBC and SFU are diverse, where students come from many different countries, with varying economic backgrounds. However, they are all unified by a mission to further their education or research, where they play a role in the academic community. Public space users who do not play a direct role in this academic community, such as children, entrepreneurs in the likes of street entertainers and vendors, may not find the campus to be as an attractive or accommodating place as it could potentially be, compared to more traditional family oriented neighbourhoods. While on campus, children may be disappointed to see fewer child-friendly play amenities compared to other civic neighbourhood parks, and commercial food trucks are prohibited on UBC campus unless being catered for private events¹⁷. Ruppert defined public spaces not by ownership, but by a regime made up of regulatory practices (Ruppert, 4). Regulatory regime is reconfiguring liberty, or rights to public space, through a change in the conception of the public, of who and what belongs to the public (Ruppert, 4-5). In this sense, it appears that the everyday public life of a campus space focused on the social, academic, and

¹⁷ Interview with Arlene Chan on public spaces at UBC, Film and Events Manager, UBC Campus Planning. August 20, 2019

professional development of students is a different kind of public life than what one may expect to find in an urban core. Public universities appear as a landscape of public spaces, but it is of a different nature compared to urban downtown cores that contains marginalized individuals and a wider range of professions, and residents at various stages of their life. University administrations make an effort to present and update their public spaces as exceptional places that reflect their academic rankings and integrity, therefore elevating its status in the public image.

Jerold Kayden outlined a framework of qualitative evaluation in the book "Regulating Place" edited by Eran Ben-Joseph and Terry Szold. Places are described on a spectrum based on their public use and classified by five use categories (summarized in Table A of Appendix). Namely, the kinds of spaces are labelled destination, neighborhood, hiatus, circulation, and marginal spaces (Ben-Joseph and Szold, 120). I found these broad categories helpful in general classification. As a destination space is "high-quality public space that attracts employees, residents, and visitors from outside, as well as from, the space's immediate neighbourhood". The design supports a broad audience where users socialize, eat, shop, view art, attend programmed events, and they may use the space for individual activities like reading and relaxing. "From time to time, a single amenity like a museum will be so compelling that it alone transforms the space into a destination space" (Ben-Joseph and Szold, 120). A neighbourhood space draws residents and employees on a regular basis from the immediate neighborhood, including the host building and surrounding buildings within a three-block radius. People use the neighborhood space for activities such as "group socializing, taking care of children, and individual reading and relaxing" (Ben-Joseph and Szold, 120). They are generally smaller than destination spaces and have strong links with the adjacent street and host buildings. Typical amenities include seating, tables, drinking fountains, water features, plantings, and trees, but not food service or programming uses typically found at destination spaces (Ben-Joseph and Szold, 121). All the public spaces I selected to observe at UBC and SFU fit in the category of destination space or neighbourhood space. I do not consider the classified spaces from hiatus to marginal, as they do not serve any role of social public spaces or community functions.

In their chapter "Seeing Space through Exclusion and Control", Benjamin Shepard and Greg Smithsimon described a typology of public space through a continuum of exclusion

(Table B of Appendix). The points labelled along the continuum of exclusion includes total exclusion, meaning a space is usable by almost no one, and selective exclusion, where some people feel welcome and others are denied entry, discouraged from entering, harassed if they do enter, or feel uncomfortable when there. On the other end is no exclusion, where barriers have been minimized as much as possible, and the space is presented in a way that symbolically communicates that it is public and welcome to all (Shepard and Smithsimon, 28). One hypothesis is to test whether public spaces at public universities are truly public for all at all times. A reading of policies shows that certain activities are restricted so it is possible that some of these spaces occupy various typologies at different times.

3.8. What is Campus Space? Analogy to Malls and Parks

What is a campus? From the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the first definition of campus is “the grounds and buildings of a university, college, or school”. The other spatial definition is “grounds that resemble a campus”¹⁸. The example given for the non-school definition is a “hospital campus”. Another well-known corporate example is the “Microsoft Campus”, the name of a company headquarters, comprising of numerous buildings.

3.8.1. University Campus as Consumption Space, Shopping Malls

Building upon established literature, another perspective is that the university campus can be viewed as a kind of consumption space. Consumption spaces are spaces that are specifically “built or redeveloped to encourage people to visit so that they can buy and consume some of the many goods and services on sale there” (Mullins et al, 45). Commercial stores and services are examples of spatial programming that brings spatial vitality, since these services are not restricted to the university community or limited to students with ID cards. As Landon Hoyt summarized in his thesis on Vancouver’s Granville Street Mall, consumption spaces are exemplified by theme parks and festival spaces, but can also include cultural centres, cinema complexes, sports stadia, shopping

¹⁸ The Merriam-Webster Dictionary online, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/campus>

malls, restaurants, and art galleries. They are also driven by profit and are not socially conducive space (Hoyt, 18). I expand this characterization of consumption space to allow for the analogy that the campus has many classrooms, laboratories, food services, and education facilities. These amenities are usually filled up with many tuition-paying students. Although not primarily a leisure space, students are encouraged and often required to purchase products and services such as textbooks. Students purchase course credits required for graduation when they register for classes. Course credits building up to a degree or certification are purchased in an indirect manner, as they must put in the time and effort to earn it by passing courses. Students often have to pass long hours by physically spending time on campus before and after classes. Outside of classrooms, there are on campus cafeterias, bookstores, galleries, and libraries. They are all examples of convenient on campus services accustomed to accommodating the needs of high numbers of students, although not always at student friendly prices. The layout of SFU's main structure partially resembles an enclosed mall, open-air mall, and a larger regional mall at the same time. Works of art, food services, and social lounges are liberally distributed across the entire complex, in addition to a few mall style food courts (Figure 2).

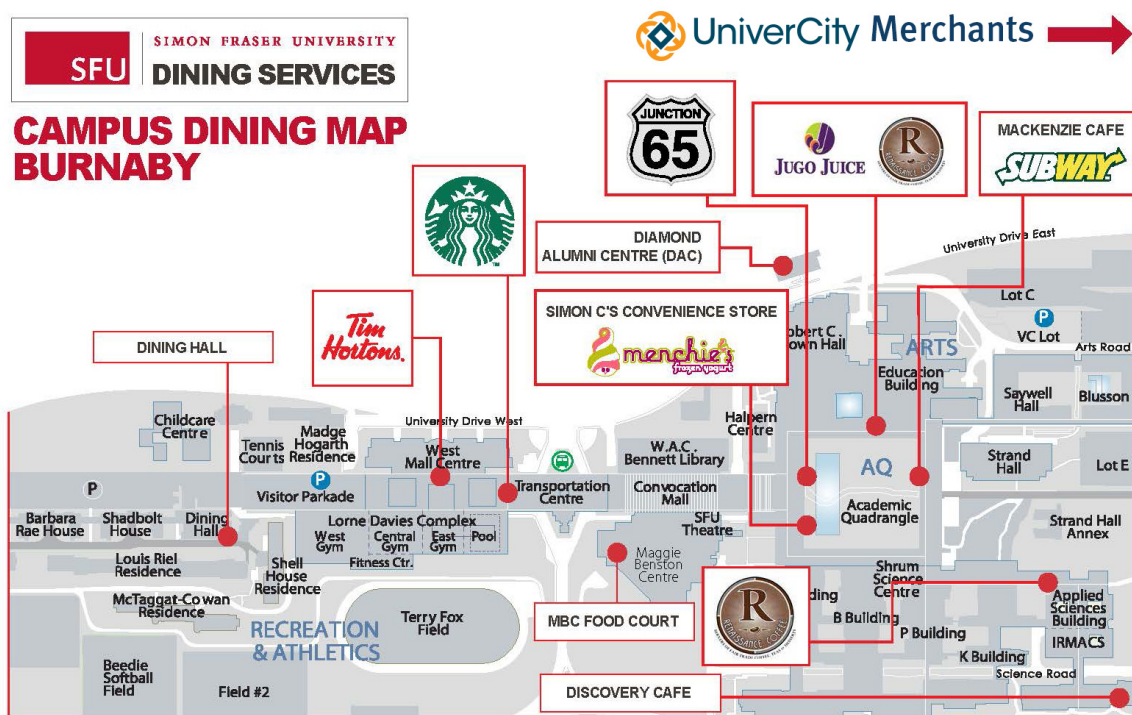


Figure 2) Map of The Grand Mall and Consumption Spaces of SFU: SFU Dining Services (Source: UniverCity) <http://univercity.ca/retail-services/dine-on-campus/>

On the other hand, UBC's layout resembles a zoned town plan, where certain departmental buildings have added amenities such as their own cafeterias, social lounges, libraries, and museums or galleries. The AMS Nest (Student Union Building) can be considered as the commercial heart and student social hub in the core campus area (Figure 3). Universities aim to provide a secure and comfortable environment where consumers and innovators can take part in a post-industrial economy. At the same time, this consumption space of knowledge is also an open public space that welcomes the greater community for work and recreation.



Figure 3) UBC's landscape with food services, emergency phones, and sites of interest. This map highlights the additional amenities offered, including shuttles and social hubs when UBC hosted the Congress 2019 of the Humanities and Sciences. (Snippet of map distributed by UBC Congress 2019) <https://www.congress2019.ca/plan-your-trip/maps>

Much has been written on the topic of shopping malls over their legal interpretations of “publicness” (Devereux and Littlefield, 12). In one example, American courts have ruled that a privately developed company town is public space where the public can expect to do things normally associated with public space, such as distributing leaflets. This ruling was supported by the fact that the company opened up its lands to the public by inviting them to spend money there, and that the multiple activities being carried out in the company town reflected those of a normal town. The company town performed normal public functions (Devereux and Littlefield, 12). Another American ruling involving an indoor shopping mall went in the mall’s favour as the judge emphasized the implied invitation for entering the private space was only for the purpose of shopping and not for any other public purpose. The final case found that a mall had the right to exclude certain people only if the private owners could prove it detrimental to their business if the “public” in question remain in the mall. This means that private ownership does not equate having complete control over the space owned (Devereux and Littlefield, 13). I see these case studies as being relevant to my example because spaces on university campuses can generally be viewed as supportive places of consumption for academic purposes. I consider a range of activities like quiet book reading, working on laptops, and small group discussions to be encouraged and expected functions of university spaces. There are spaces that come with the expectation or obligation of consumption. However, it is evident that there are no direct consumption activities or user fees required as a prerequisite for being on campus spaces at UBC or SFU. On the other hand, how reasonable is it for a university to monitor the presence or activities of outsiders and their range of other activities in order to protect the interests of its students? If students complained about a loud band of musicians who have spontaneously started playing in the Academic Quadrangle before finals week when students are trying to study, would SFU have the authority to limit these individuals or activities at this specific time? As I learned from interviews, the answer is “yes”. SFU security would let these people of their responsibilities, whether they are general members of the public or protestors. They are not allowed to disrupt students who are paying for their education to be there. UBC’s Film and Events liaison assured me that approved events and booked activities would not be noisy or disturb classes. This study on exploring the accessibility of public spaces managed by universities investigates some of these questions by integrating literature on theories of public space.

Shopping malls are constructed landmarks of suburban landscapes, and both UBC and SFU could be described in their settings as a part of suburbia, for their distances from the central business district, as well as a reliance on highway transportation (UBC's SW Marine Drive and SFU's Gagliardi Way, Burnaby Mountain Parkway, both cut through forests). Shopping malls, with their open benches, fountains, benches, and play spaces are private property. Malls are not regulated by elected representatives, but by executives and corporate regulations (Palen, 187). Their powers extend to questions of who can be in a mall and what these people can or cannot do while they are there. In theory, malls can exclude people for reasons such as the soliciting of funds, hanging out political literature, or even not meeting the required dress codes (Palen, 188). Modern shopping malls reflect the privatization of once public space, and are ruled by regulations rather than laws (Palen, 189). The policies of SFU and UBC are developed and approved by their Board of Governors rather than elected council members. The terms used in the policies available online include "policies", "procedures", "rules", and "guidelines", rather than "bylaw" or "law". Therefore, from a legal perspective, universities cannot draft legislation because they do not function at the same political level as municipalities.

3.8.2. The Campus as Public Park Space

University campuses incorporates elements of urbanity and park space without being fully committed into one category. Aside from the shopping mall, public spaces on the university campus can be compared to park spaces. On the surface, some major places, such as the Academic Quadrangle, with its landscaped lawns, pond and shrubs, do resemble parks physically, even though they are not labelled as such in the name. These spaces at UBC and SFU are not managed by municipal park boards but the University board's own policies set by the Board of Governors. A critical look at urban parks recognize that no park or park system can "benefit all" because political choices are always made about who gets to use parks and for what kinds of activities (Hern et al., 31). Park theory is a set of discourses that describes how people should behave, what kinds of activities are tolerable, which are unacceptable, which are encouraged, which are punished (Hern et al., 29-30). Theory derived from the influence of park designer Frederick

Olmsted subscribes to the sanitary function of parks, in both public health and benefits for mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. I used Németh and Schmidt's toolkit of investigating both urban privately owned public spaces and critical reflections of park spaces to gain a more comprehensive picture of universities as an in between space between the urban and park.

Hern provided an example of Vancouver's Bocce Ball Park (Victoria Park) as "contested space", and described this patch as grass as a small park with many different park users that sometimes lead to conflict. Hern made a list of Vancouver parks bylaws, which are "punishable on conviction by a fine of not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$2,000.00 for each offence" (Hern, 64). Some of these offences include no playing guitar, gathering in groups, public address, sing, play frisbee or football except in designated areas unless you have written permission from the general manager. Even then, Parks Board Commissioner Spencer Herbert found some of these regulations puzzling because "they are not really enforced and the public also don't know they're there so it's not really hampering their freedom" (Hern 65). Hern's statement here is that Vancouver parks are overregulated, and it points to larger, more pervasive, and more troubling trajectories that are determining what kind of city Vancouver will be and how its development will be governed. Upon reading how many bylaws there are in Vancouver parks, I understand how not being part of the urban park systems benefit universities like UBC and SFU. Space users may perceive green, outdoor campus spaces as parks but it is advantageous for the university to not impose park bylaws or restrictions there. For example, there are no opening or closing times for accessing outdoor spaces on campus. By not having bylaws that require advance permission of authorities for events and recreational activities, the university frees itself from many rules typical of urban parks and allows for spontaneous student events, social gatherings, and all kinds of recreational activities as the university sees fit without being tied down to park bylaws. As I will discuss in more detail later, university guidelines and policies exist, but there is less emphasis on micromanaging recreational activities committed by users, than to ensure an overall sense of community well-being for the university.

In the context of my literature review on the university environment, natural spaces on campus has been analyzed as "Healing Gardens", by Stephen Lau and Feng Yang, on their case study of green spaces on the University of Hong Kong grounds (HKU). The

researchers crafted arguments on the significance of landscape design for universities, especially in dense cities where there is a shortage of green space in urban environments, such as Hong Kong. Lau and Yang did not use the term park often in their report, perhaps since they categorize university specific natural spaces as having a more specialized function. For universities, nature on campus brings elements of a sustainable and health supportive campus. Natural spaces have been designed and used into some hospital settings to aid with the healing process; the authors referred to these as “healing gardens”. Lau and Yang combined the definition of a garden as a place that “contain prominent amounts of real nature content such as green vegetation, flowers, and water”, over a healing garden or a “garden in a setting designed to make people feel better”. The resulting effect is a setting that aims to make people feel safe, less stressed, more comfortable, and even invigorated (Lau and Yang, 58-59). Their survey found out that the campus’ lily pond was considered to be the most important green space on the main campus and 60% of respondents visit a green space at least once a week. 97% of respondents preferred to have a green view from their window, concluding that green spaces at HKU are better used than expected. The researchers recommend having two pocket gardens in closer proximity with one another by the Main Library Square. One could play a more public role and the other is more private and personal, in order to meet the different usage requirements of a well functioned healing garden (Lau and Yang, 65). I see this pattern at UBC and SFU, where slightly more hidden courtyards are tucked away but not far from the more frequently used main public spaces. Lau and Yang pointed out that HKU’s natural settings in the form of courtyard and atrium gardens are suitable for its high-density compact campus. This could also describe the natural features of SFU, which has main courtyards at the core in addition to several others. Ponds, trees, vegetation, and natural scenery all feature into the core designs of UBC’s Main Mall Plaza and SFU’s Academic Quadrangle Gardens. From this perspective, the primary function of campus public spaces are practical, as they serves as sites providing mental therapeutic relief for the university community.

The jurisdiction of the UBC Campus and its adjacent neighbour, the University Endowment Lands (UEL), forms a notable case study in itself. The UEL, also known as Electoral Area A is managed directly by the British Columbia Provincial Government’s Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development. Distinct from the academic campus, the UEL is not associated with UBC or its developments (O’Connor, January 16

2014). Its unique political situation caused some dissatisfaction among residents on the community advisory council who believe that the UEL should become incorporated into a municipality to obtain democracy. Over the last 30 years, UBC built up its own community by selling land on 99 year leases, primarily made up of market-based apartments to people without a direct connection to the university but whose money builds up UBC's endowment (McElroy, Oct 2 2018). I visited one public space, James Everett Memorial Park, across from the University Marketplace on Allison Road, which falls within UEL jurisdiction. Later I decided to leave it out in my comparative analysis of core campus spaces, due to its distance from the university's academic heart.

Chapter 4. Methodology

My methodology is mixed, combining qualitative interviews with a tested quantitative scoring aspect. I dig into campus newspaper archives and news media for relevant stories that can then be cross-referenced with publicly available documents and interviews.

4.1. Quantitative Scoring for Assessing the Accessibility of Public spaces

This research employs a mixed methods approach that combines positivist and naturalistic aspects with a tested quantitative methodology. An index developed by Németh and Schmidt in New York was used to help evaluate the “publicness” of public squares and plazas managed by the University (see Appendix). I adapted this methodology for evaluating my selection of popular public spaces at UBC and SFU to learn how their accessibility and spatial programming compare to each other. I initially observed and took notes for six public spaces for UBC and seven for SFU before narrowing them down to four of the most central sites on each campus to represent the core physical structures of each campus.

The index developed for this purpose gives a quantitative measure for the control of publicly accessible places. Based on Németh and Schmidt’s site visits to places around Manhattan, twenty variables were defined for the index with each representing a possible strategy for securing space. Ten of them indicate control of users and ten indicate free use of space. Zero is a neutral score, -20 is a very controlled space, and 20 is a least controlled space. The index does not measure the level of use, sociability, or success of a space, therefore combining it with a social survey can give insight into what kinds of people use these spaces (most obvious visual classifications can include younger undergraduate students studying, groups of people vs individuals, families with children, and seniors) how and how long they use them, and for what purposes. Although an influential tool in my research, the Németh and Schmidt methodology is limited in the sense that it considers ownership, management, and uses/users (Németh and Schmidt 2007, 280). The index covers the four major dimensions: laws and rules governing space, surveillance and policing present in the space, design and image-building techniques to

both literally and symbolically dictate appropriate behaviour, and access restrictions and territorial separation to control space (Rahi et al 2012, 27). For this research, I focus on a narrower definition of accessibility, based on what I could learn from observing users, behaviours, physical designs of space, and reading institutional policies. This leaves out wider social aspects of accessibility, including economical, institutional, and psychological barriers to space. Not everyone has equal access and opportunities to space, even when a space appears wide-open and unrestricted at a glance. Like anywhere else, people on campus who dress and behave significantly from the norms of what is considered typical student behaviour may attract unwanted attention, whether they want it or not. On occasions as I have seen, vocal demonstrators intentionally make the trip to campus for the reason that they are more easily noticed and likely to be heard in a sea of students. In a prominent and relevant example, the First Nations in British Columbia lost access to land when university campuses were built on their traditional territories without consultation and were excluded from participation and benefiting from these institutions for many years. This form of social exclusion is apparent even without the presence of physical walls.

4.2. Social Observations, Site Visits

The quantitative index from Németh and Schmidt was supplemented by observations that are designed to identify typical academic activities associated with university students, such as reading textbooks and using laptop computers. This would contrast with activities that are more recreational or urban in nature, like parents playing sports with children or vendors using the space as a commercial marketplace. Popular public places that are present at both Universities include the plaza in front of their major libraries, which could be SFU's Convocation Mall and UBC's Koerner Library plaza (Map 1 and Map 2). Both universities also have at least one relatively newer residential "town centre" developments located at the intersection of the academic campus and commercial properties, such as the park at UBC's University Marketplace and SFU's UniverCity Town Square. An initial sample observation plan called for the documentation of at least three places on three different days to produce a total three hours of records for each space. However, due to ongoing renovation of the SFU campus, the Convocation Mall in front of Bennett Library

was off limits to me until June 2019 when construction work paused in order to allow for graduation ceremonies. For this reason, the site known as “Freedom Square” adjacent to the Convocation Mall, marked with a plaque was also closed to observations during this period. Freedom Square is known for its history of student activism on campus, including opening up controversial issues over university government, academic freedom, and the women’s movement (Johnston,3). After Convocation took place in June 2019, adjacent parts of the Mall continued to undergo renovations, with a projected completion date in October, 2020, as of the time of writing. SFU’s Freedom Square, adjacent to the Convocation Mall with its history of student protests and activism, was also under extensive renovation during my visits in Spring and Summer 2019. The main central space of the Academic Quadrangle was unaffected at the time of my visit in March, although construction scaffolding around the borders and resulting noise can be considered to have some impact on the suitability of space. I returned for a site survey of Convocation Mall on June 17, 2019 after Convocation Week, in order to take advantage of the freshly paved plaza. My initial documentation in March covered 4 sites for SFU and 5 for UBC (Charts in Appendix).

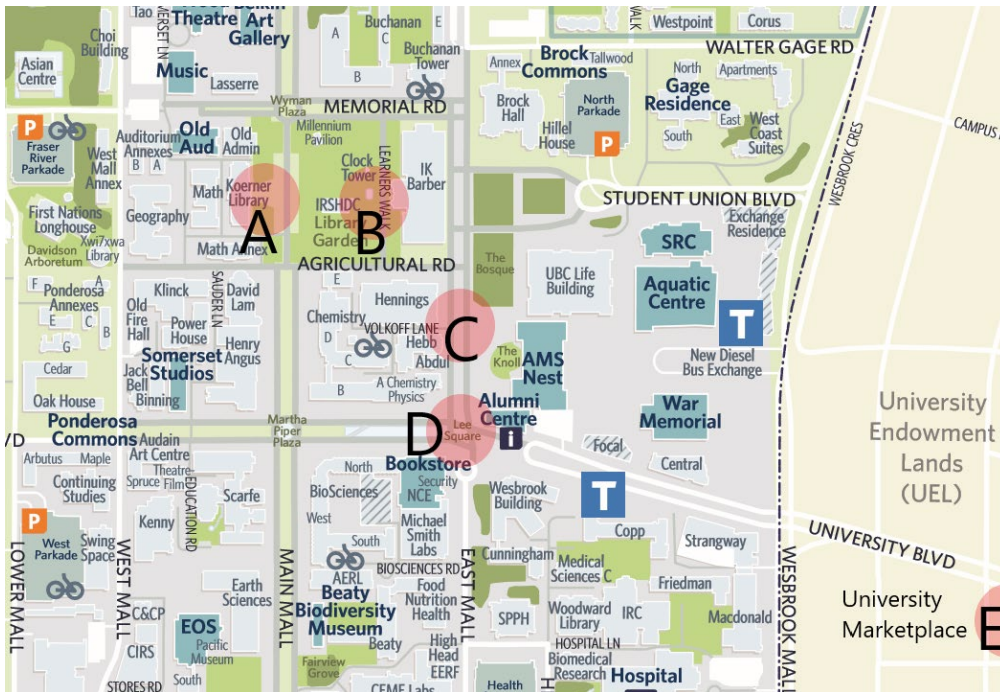


Figure 4) Map of Selected Core Public Places at UBC. (Map is lightly edited from planning.ubc.ca)

Figure 4 shows a snippet of UBC's central campus showing selected public spaces from my initial surveys represented in circles with letters.

- A= Koerner Library Plaza
- B=Plaza by Clock Tower
- C=University Commons
- D= Lee Plaza
- E= James Everett Memorial Park

The University Marketplace is a popular commercial area situated close to the campus entrance. In my later observations, I made the decision to leave out James Everett Memorial Park as a key university public space, even though it is a well-used landscaped green park adjacent to the University Marketplace, which serves as an alternate commercial area to the services offered on the main campus.

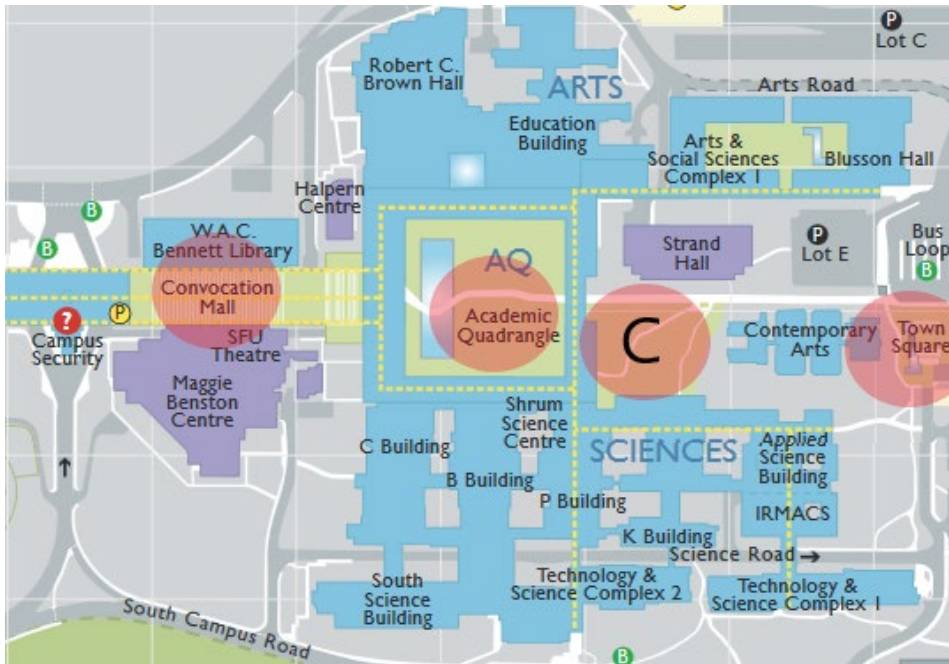


Figure 5) Map of SFU Campus showing selected public spaces highlighted in round circles (Source: Map adapted from Simon Fraser University Administrative & Professional Staff Association)

Figure 5 shows SFU Burnaby's Central Campus spaces including the Convocation Mall and Academic Quadrangle, designed as public gathering places by the architect Arthur Erickson. Circles mark the sites I surveyed. C denotes the Science Courtyard, a newer outdoor space that is not labelled on this map. These two major spaces along with various other courtyards, Town Square are illustrated as green spaces on the map and marked

with pedestrian routes, implying they are places that see considerable traffic and use. Erickson's completed design provides a kind of self-contained town planning, although it primarily served the academic community and did not contain market housing for general public at the time of its opening in 1965 (Johnston, 57). The UniverCity residential project announced in 1998 transformed the perception of SFU as an isolated mountaintop campus as it grew into a sustainable community (SFU Community Trust, 2014).

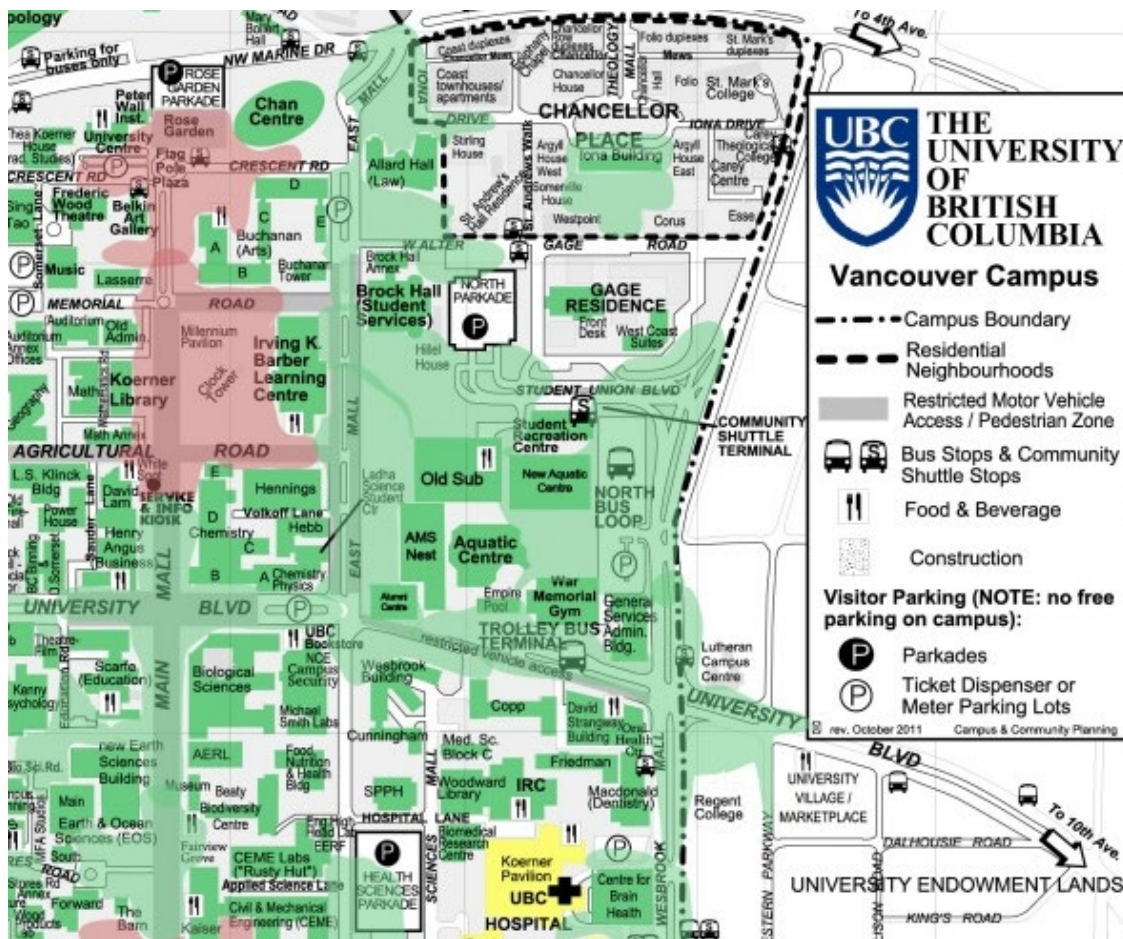


Figure 6) Map showing coverage of UBC's Wireless Network, encompassing both outdoor and indoor spaces (Source: UBC Information Technology Services)

Figure 6 shows a snippet from the UBC Wireless Map, showing areas of current Wi-Fi coverage in green, partial indoor Wi-Fi coverage in yellow, and future outdoor Wi-Fi

coverage in pink. Ease and accessibility of free public Wi-Fi provided by the university is a relatively new but increasingly important indicator contributing to the perception of whether a particular space is intended to be public or private. In the 21st century, the lack of public Wi-Fi in certain areas can be perceived as an intentional indicator of a less publicly accessible space. One of the most frequent observations in my visual surveys of campus space is the casual usage of personal smartphones or laptops. The lack of free open access Wi-Fi can discourage people from loitering, assuming they do not already have their own data plans. My sites of interest included the new plaza by the AMS Nest and square in front of Koerner Library. This map available on UBC Information Technology Services at the time of writing was clear for its purpose of displaying UBC's extensive outdoor coverage although slightly dated as it predates the construction of University Commons and displays the Old Student Union Building on the site of the present Nest, the new building serving the old purpose. SFU's IT services website did not have a comparable wireless network map showing coverage around outdoor spaces on campus, although it provides detailed maps for individual sections of the campus, such as the library and wings of various departments. My time spent at SFU revealed that I was only able to access the university's Wi-Fi network with my personal SFU identification and password, as no public access was available.

The site survey was unobtrusive and did not require me to talk to people. I employed purposeful, systematic observations in the spatial sampling of my field research selections by visiting each campus during the daytime on weekdays when classes were in session. I stayed at each place for up to 30 minutes and organized visits by observing places according to their locations next to each other. For convenience, public spaces that were close together were visited sequentially, such as in the case of University Commons and Lee Plaza. I took informal notes on paper while sitting at an appropriate public seat to not attract attention. Later at home, I retyped some of my sketchy notes for organization and to help me recall more details (Babbie and Benaquisto, 319). Each site was visited around noon on a weekday, and around 3pm for the end of a weekday. I selected 3pm as it was a suitable time for marking the end of the school day for public elementary or high schools. In some instances, I noted the presence of children. Main observations and notetaking were conducted during one week at UBC followed by one week at SFU. Following the assessment of a few key campus spaces using the index and social survey, it can be recognized that certain people and activities are absent from these places. Initial site

observations were completed in March. A second round of observations and quantitative assessment with the Németh and Schmidt methodology in the summer months was compared with the earlier figure.

I did not analyze secondary data for dates of specific programming done at my selected campus outdoor spaces due to my observation that not many events are explicitly labelled as being hosted at a particular space on the university events page. However, I noted some major noteworthy events that are not officially organized by the university, but recorded on student news media, such as impromptu marches and protests. Online search for outdoor events hosted at SFU brought up results that differed slightly from the actual event, possibly due to logistics, change of plans due to weather, or other reasons. Therefore, I did not consider brief online descriptions of an event happening on outdoor space without other supplemental evidence. For example, the online description of SFU's First Friday Carnival included a BBQ that was listed as taking place in the AQ Gardens¹⁹. In reality, I observed it occurring on the grounds of the adjacent Convocation Mall. Unlike indoor classrooms, which are fixed containments in space, outdoor events tend to have more fluidity, and activities are more likely to spillover into neighbouring spaces. This could explain the BBQ being served in the Convocation Mall with the possible expectation that users will spillover into the AQ Gardens and use this space during the same event.

4.3. Campus Planning, Policy Documents, and Interviews

My study included the analysis available policy documents and maps by Campus Development Planning at SFU and UBC's Campus and Community Planning. Examining plans pertaining to each space revealed the intentions behind original design features. Attention was paid to literature specific to the design and history of my selected public

¹⁹ 06 Sept "First Friday Carnival" by SFU Engagement and Retention
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/first-friday-carnival-tickets-67523718259>

spaces. Spatial observations throughout the course of my data collection period can indicate whether any features provided for the public space according to plans have been altered, moved, or revoked through time. These planning documents are accessible online and through library services, therefore I did not need to ask for permission. The sections on the Use of University Space at SFU recognizes that larger public spaces, such as the Convocation Mall and Academic Quadrangle, may be booked through Student Services, although there are limitations in order to ensure security, safety, and that the university's reputation will not be compromised²⁰.

For all intents and purposes in this research, university policies from the Board of Governors stand in for municipal bylaws, although they are not equivalent in a legal perspective. University policies and regulations range from academic, administration, to teaching and instruction. The policies of interest to me fall under the General Policies section at SFU. UBC has all policy documents in PDF on a list. Control is a necessary component of public space that can be asserted by authorities both public and private, and by users of a space (Shepard and Smithsimon, 25). On the one end of the spectrum, spaces under private control are operated and owned by a private corporation that owns the land on which the space is located and is not democratically accountable with elected members. Shepard and Smithsimon asserted that most of the regulation of space actually lies in the hands of its users rather than private owners, authorities, and police. Social control is effective in regulating the norms of behaviours that comes into play in reality.

4.4. Content Analysis of Student University Newspapers

Student newspapers proved to be an invaluable reference library for transporting me back in time to read and visualize events and developments as they happened at the time. Nowhere else could I find summaries on Board of Governor Meetings or read about specific incidents such as how students reacted when McDonald's first opened at UBC in 1996. I decided to start digging into the content by creating my customized reading list of articles and topics that can provide me with past examples and insights, which later grew

²⁰ Use of Public Space <https://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/general/gp36.html>

into a spreadsheet. The challenge was determining how to find relevant articles of interest through the extensive online archives of student newspapers. The complete collection of university weekly newspapers published by SFU and UBC are available for viewing digitally on each of their university library's website. I employed a systematic sampling method by browsing through every third issue chronologically for the Peak newspaper starting from 2009 as it appears on the online webpages (Babbie and Benaquisto, 182). I initially started sampling issues from 2005 for the Peak paper since I knew prior that was when many business services started opening in the Cornerstone building, the first significant development of the UniverCity community. However, readability issues with the quality of scanned black and white issues became a problem. Therefore, I decided to focus on sampling issues from the last ten years from 2009 when the quality of issues were much improved as well as in colour. Occasionally there were some errors in the chronological listing of each issue archived online. I may be finishing a September Issue, only to have it followed by an earlier July issue three issues later on the website, when it should have been a paper from October or November. In this case, I still used the issue and listed it on my content analysis spreadsheet. I made revisions to my sampling strategy several times in response to the potential issue of periodicity in papers (Babbie and Benaquisto, 184). SFU library hosted PDF copies for the Peak until 2014. Later, I found out that newer issues are hosted on the Peak's own website through another digital publishing platform. For the Ubysey Paper, I started by going through the first issue of every month to ensure a predictable number of about eight or nine per year for every issue published during the school year with an occasional summer edition. The potential issue with this approach was that there could be periodical features I may be skipping over in the newspaper editions, such as an editorial or column. Therefore I revisited the Ubysey papers by picking every fourth issue instead, and this yielded a larger sample size of analyzed issues. The student newspaper is not published consistently enough on a regular timetable for every annual batch of papers to have the same sample size. The Ubysey has historically varied in the frequency of its publications but is mostly a semi-weekly paper published twice a week while The Peak is a weekly publication and I used a sampling strategy that would provide me with a workable quantity of papers. With this strategy, I usually sampled about eight to nine issues a year for The Peak and eleven to thirteen for The Ubysey as it would increase when there are special edition issues, parodies, or summer editions. I did not do a content analysis of other civic or municipal community papers such as the Vancouver Sun or Burnaby Now because I wanted to

approach issues from the student perspective and commentary, on how various issues have affected the campus community.

I started reading each issue by noting the main stories in its table of contents. Next, I used the keyword search function by finding whether there are mentions in the paper on several terms of interest: “public space”, “safety”, “security”, and “UniverCity”, in the case for SFU. Sometimes a paper may not any of these terms but still have stories of relevance to the use of public space, such as SFU’s 2012 Lip Dub music video filmed on campus intended to strengthen its sense of community and promote itself during a brief trend when many student groups directed musical videos to showcase their schools on YouTube. There were some interpretations on my part in including which events should be noted on my chart, under the major headings of public space and campus security. Since the spreadsheet has space for one row, I usually only briefly summarized one article and two if required. It was also common for many sampled issues to contain no mentions of my search terms at all.

My objective was to note patterns in the usage of these terms in the context of public space and reflect on the various community concerns and development at an on the ground level reporting at the two universities. My spreadsheet of various newspaper content grouped together by my selected concerns created a table of articles, opinions, and features that I could conveniently refer to when I need to provide examples of cases in recent history to illustrate my points. The most visible features from my tables are the absences or infrequency of certain issues throughout various years. Stories on safety and security or less frequent in comparison to articles on various events taking place on campus. Sometimes when the public spaces that an event occurs in are not listed by name, there is photographic evidence in the paper. Usually, it is straightforward to identify, as the Convocation Mall plays hosts to an array of student events and it is readily identifiable. The physical design of SFU has stayed relatively consistent, while some UBC spaces mentioned in earlier articles no longer exist, such as the old bus loop and the pop-up park space that appeared after it was demolished.

The strengths of student newspapers is that they report at least on a weekly frequency on local stories at the ground level that is often not covered anywhere else on other news media. Its irreverent and often humorous tone reflects the voice of student writers

towards its perceived readership on campus. There is detailed coverage on elections of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and Electoral Area A or the University Endowment Lands in The Ubyyssey while The Peak is strong on reporting the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS). The shortcomings are its brevity and lack of detail, since it is targeted for a broad audience. Each newspaper issue is a microcosm of the student body, capturing a snapshot in time on campus and around the city, as well as a student lens on many aspects of current events, ranging from pop culture to politics. My content analysis concluded when the scanned online archives ended in April 2012 for The Ubyyssey and June 2014 for The Peak.

The Ubyyssey's main website includes content from 2015 and onwards. However, the current database was of limited utility for my purposes as typing in the same key search terms only yielded three stories and did not provide enough resources for me to analyze or draw patterns from.

The current website for The Peak carries all digital issues on ISSU from January 2013, a digital publishing platform, picking up where the digital archives hosted on the library website ends, continuing to the present day. I made the decision to review papers with the same methodology through to the end of 2018, checking every third issue and doing a word search for relevant key terms. The readability and quality is much improved in comparison to earlier issues on scanned PDF and is a useful source. The Peak is published less frequently than the Ubyyssey, and partly for this reason and the way SFU developed, I found fewer articles or letters published in the paper on contentious issues involving space.

4.5. Interviews

Key informant interviews with planners and staff involved in the creation, maintenance, and management of the selected public spaces after observations helped make sense of my observations and clarify policies, as well as address questions I was merely curious about. The purpose of my interviews was to aid in answering questions related to the design of spaces, university policies, and what happens there. Moreover, semi-structured qualitative interviews allow for creative dialogue and insight into the evolution of public spaces on campus. I prepared a general list of questions but there is flexibility to which

questions are used and the order of questions that I used. This allowed me to pursue issues in depth while giving the respondent more freedom to direct the flow of conversation (Babbie and Benaquisto, 326). Ultimately, information gathered can point to areas where improvements can be made for a more socially inclusive campus. In the case of SFU's ongoing renewal project through 2019, my questions aimed to gain a sense of the changes and improvements made to outdoor spaces currently under renovation. I also wanted perspectives on how campus designs may be changing in the light of an increased and more diverse residential population.

All my professional contacts had their contact information published on their university and professional websites. Each participant was asked to dispose of up to 45 minutes of their time to conduct semi-structured interviews. Interviews were all conducted on campus at their place of work. While typing down notes, I audio recorded the interviews on a digital recorder as a backup reference to my note taking when consent was granted. In the event that in-person interviews with the desired participant were not possible, the plan was to send my inquiries and interview questions through email.

Chapter 5. Student Space or Urban Space?

First, I explain the First Nations land acknowledgement before describing the diversity of space users on campus. It can be said that both campuses branched out commercially as they grew in size to accommodate more students, resulting in an expansion of commercial services and lifestyle amenities.

5.1. First Nations Territorial Acknowledgements

In this thesis, I highlight the university as a special zone of intersection between students transiting through the academic sphere and the general public. The residential base can benefit from both universities' recent urban developments and take part in university branded urban lifestyles in housing situated on campus lands. Accessing lands by the student academic and general public population appears to be the dominant social structure for land use planning on both campuses. However, it is important to emphasize that discourse on university lands in British Columbia would not be complete without acknowledging the First Nations, who have traditionally used the land that now encompasses UBC and SFU for thousands of years, and they continue to hold roles in the development and social programming of campus to this present day. In addition to the space users and needs of the academic and urban public, the First Nations also access the same territory for various cultural purposes. Simon Fraser University on Burnaby Mountain was built on the unceded, traditional territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Watuth, Musqueam, and Kwikwetlem First Nations²¹ The Peak of Burnaby Mountain was a setting for hunting and gathering, as well as a special place for prayer, solitude, and reflection so that one could connect with the creator (SFU Burnaby 2065 Campus Master Plan Draft, 11). After the City of Burnaby donated 1000 acres, it was selected as the site of a new university.

²¹ Lindsay, William G. *"Aboriginal Cultural & Research Protocols and Territorial Acknowledgements"*

<http://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/aboriginalpeoples/Aboriginal%20Cultural%20%26%20Research%20Protocols%20and%20Territorial%20Acknowledgements%20Document%2C%20SFU%202016-17.pdf>

The UBC Point Grey campus is situated on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam People. The term “unceded” means that the land was not turned over to the Crown or government by a treaty or other agreement²². All across British Columbia, lands were taken from Aboriginal Peoples without treaties, consent, and compensation²³. The 1907 Endowment Lands Act provided for the sale of lands throughout British Columbia to raise money for the construction of universities, enabled a year later by the University Act²⁴. Recent additions at both UBC and SFU have highlighted the cultural heritage of First Nations, who have lost access and much of their opportunity for traditional use of that land, while being excluded from higher education. A traditional Musqueam Post is situated by the UBC bookstore and Lee Plaza. Street signs in both English and in the Musqueam language of hən̓q̓əmiñəm serve as reminders of the history of the land and to educate about the specific ways in which the Musqueam People interpret spaces²⁵. SFU Burnaby erected its first Welcome Pole in 2018 at the campus entrance to honour the traditional Coast Salish Territories on which it is located²⁶. Landmarks focusing on services and educations for First Nations include the Museum of Anthropology and First Nations Longhouse at UBC, and the future First People’s Gathering House to be constructed at SFU.

5.2. Diversification of Functions

Throughout the course of my research, I have found concrete evidence that many public spaces on campus, especially much of UBC, have become more socially desirable as a place to spend leisure time. Ten years ago in 2009, UBC’s core still contained

²² “*What is a land acknowledgement?*”

<https://students.ubc.ca/ubclife/what-land-acknowledgement>

²³ “*UBC Centennial: The Hidden History*”

<http://centennial.aboriginal.ubc.ca/>

²⁴ *ibid*

²⁵ “*Welcome to Musqueam Territory*”

https://students.ubc.ca/ubclife/welcome-musqueam-territory?utm_source=post-related-cat

²⁶ “*New Welcome Figure for Burnaby Campus*”

<https://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2018/02/aboriginal-peoples-supplement/new-welcome-pole-for-burnaby-campus.html>

roads with circulating vehicles; it did not have as many park benches on pedestrian malls. McDonald's opened adjacent to the UBC campus on the Endowment Lands in 1996 on its present commercial location by University Marketplace. A student letter to the Ubyyssey reflected concerns relating to corporatization of the university. The student described the situation as a "buy-out" because it seems that "UBC favours the highest bidder instead of upholding the virtues of the university as a thoughtful place and supporting more socially sound operations". The student also reported that the McDonalds crew manager responded to critics by saying, "If you don't like McDonald's, why don't you leave UBC?" In her interpretation, the manager spoke as though McDonald's belongs at UBC before the students. This is problematic, as Cargill argued that it shows this university is no longer a place of thought and exploration, nor could UBC claim to be a leading institution of true education (Cargill, Feb 2 1996). In the early 2000s, SFU was still a comparatively isolated campus building adjacent to acres of parking lots on a forested mountaintop with a limited residential community. Retail businesses began to open up at the Cornerstone Building on Burnaby Mountain in early 2005. Based on the commentary of a few students, the development added convenience in terms of food options and groceries for students in residences (Marlow. Feb 7 2005). However, some students were unconvinced by the idea of living at Cornerstone while attending SFU. Opinions ranged on how university residence is safer and easier for a single student to manage, along with its communal and social aspects, while the new apartments would be more suited for raising a family or for someone who already have roommates or a partner. According to the 2005 Peak article, at least during the early days of UniverCity, its small-business policy prioritized small businesses, meaning that "a Tim Hortons or other fast food operations are unlikely" (Marlow, Feb 7 2005). However, this no longer seems to be the case in 2019, as franchises including Tim Horton's, Pizza Hut, and Uncle Fatih's are present at UniverCity, as observed by the author.

Before the implementation of the UniverCity Community on Burnaby Mountain, SFU geography students put together "A Strategic Concept Plan for the Burnaby Mountain Community Development Project" under the direction of Professor Mark Roseland in 1999. Dave Wise pointed out that much of the physical infrastructure that already existed at the heart of the campus was developed around the needs of a small student population, and makes no allowance for future growth. Community services including Recreational Services & Athletics, SFU Children's Centre, Bennett library, and Maggie

Benston Centre are all oriented to the Simon Fraser University Community with priorities on students, faculty, and staff (Wise, 129). Wise noticed limitations in the ability of the academic campus to play a dual role as a service and community space for residents on Burnaby Mountain. The Official Community Plan calls for the University to provide access to campus recreational facilities to the residential neighbourhoods, subject to the priority accorded to the University community. Although Wise acknowledged that the concept calling for sharing of facilities can lead to opportunities for interaction between the market neighbourhoods and campus, this would be followed by conflicts. Wise provided a specific example, "From a social perspective, students of the University have different attitudes and behaviors which are sometimes at odds with the accepted norms of the general public. Mingling varsity athletes alongside senior citizens in the same weight room is not an acceptable solution and is doomed to failure" (Wise, 131).

Consumption spaces have become an integral part of the emergent postindustrial-postmodern city (Mullins et al, 47), including streets, parks, and plazas. As I uncovered examples through my archival and media research online and in the student newspapers, core campus spaces at UBC and SFU have played host to an array of entertainment, spontaneous, recreational events, in addition to their role as the centerpiece of the scholarly and serious academic campus. Like Vancouver's Granville Street as described by Hoyt, universities are consumption spaces where considerable financial transactions are made. In addition, they are transportation centres and innovation hubs. Another similarity is that central campus spaces have been given a variety of purposes to accommodate civic and private authorities, on top of its mandated educational and research role.

Chapter 6. Evidence and Discussion

In this section, I unpack and examine policies pertaining to the usages of campus space from UBC and SFU. I organize the information into tables to create a more accessible visual representation. I gather evidence from policies, what I learned from interviews, as well as summaries from public space theories in literature. Lastly, I examine case studies from readings of a range of media and news articles over the years to corroborate with existing evidence.

6.1. Official University Policies

To understand the institutional policies for usage of space, I created a summary of bylaws at both SFU and UBC as described on their policies page. The tables are my own additions from my interpretation of reading the policies. Horizontal rows convey a ranking in priorities (Table C), while examples listed in columns mean they are of equal importance (Table B, Table D, Table E).

SFU Use as Adapted from University Space Policies and Procedures

(Source of all Tables: UBC Board of Governors and SFU Policy Gazette)

Table B) SFU Types of Space Usage

Exclusive use of university and not for any other uses (office, laboratories)	Large University-wide events such as Orientation, Convocation supersede most other reservations	University space available for booking (See Table below)
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Table C) SFU Ranking Priority for Booking

1. Academic or Administrative Users
2. Academic Invitees
3. Student Groups
4. Commercial Users and Other Third Parties

UBC's Policy 107 on Space Rental Policy

The procedures are laid out in a slightly different manner from SFU.

Table D) Bookable Spaces at UBC are divided into three categories

Teaching Space	Non-Teaching Space	Research, Administrative, and Ancillary Space
General Teaching Space	Designed Facility and Designated Administrator	
Restricted Teaching Space		

Table E) Rather than a priority list, UBC's Policy 107 lists activities contemplated under the booking policy.

Core Academic/Educational Activities	Other Academic/Educational Activities	Administrative Activities	Athletic/Recreational Activities	Commercial Activities	Events	Filming/Photography
UBC Course Credit Offerings	UBC Offerings that does not lead to degree or diploma					

SFU controls smoking, and other tobacco, cannabis uses on campus in a policy document revised on March 21, 2019²⁷. A reading shows different protocols with which to treat violations depending on the association of the person in the event of unresolved or recurring compliance issues. The consequences of a violation depend on whether the person in violation is a visitor/contractor, student, or employee. “Visitors who refuse to comply will be asked to leave campus. Contractors who refuse to comply will be reported to their immediate supervisor”. Students who continue to violate this policy after reasonable efforts will be reported to Student Services and subject to discipline under the University’s Conduct Policy. Similarly, employees that continue to violate are reported to their immediate supervisor. There are different consequences for people misusing the same space depending upon their membership, and therefore, campus security is in a position to verify personal identification in order to determine the appropriate consequences. SFU ‘s policy gazette encloses a map of designated smoking areas, specifically for both tobacco and cannabis. There are numerous tobacco designated outdoor smoking areas while there are only two designated outdoor smoking areas for cannabis. These sites were established based on the criteria of being at least 10 metres away from any building, including doorway, air intakes, and covered walkways.

For UBC’s smoking/vaping policy, repeat violations are treated as “willful contempt or insubordination”. On the UBC Vancouver campus, smoking is prohibited within 8 metres of a bus shelter located on UBC premises and any doorway, window, or air intake of any UBC enclosed premises. This implies that smoking is permitted on general outdoor areas of campus on the condition that it is more than 8 metres away from the structures listed, where signs and markings do not prohibit it. Unlike SFU, UBC’s policies do not differentiate between cannabis and tobacco designated areas and the page also does not provide a map listing all designated smoking areas. However, Section 3 mentions designated smoking areas should be aided by posted signage or markings. Campus security also have the authority to suspend the designation of a place as a designated smoking area on a “good faith determination that there is a safety, security, or health concern, and the Responsible Executive is not available to act”. The protocols to be followed if non-compliance issues cannot be resolved are listed under a) students, and b)

²⁷ Control of Smoking and Other Tobacco and Cannabis Use on Campus (GP 16)
<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/general/gp16.html>

faculty and staff. Visitors and members of the general public do not appear to be considered here²⁸. For students, the policy calls for formal complaints to be lodged by “any party responsible for day to day implementation and compliance. For faculty and staff, “non-compliance concerns should be lodged with either the individual’s immediate supervisor or campus security...”

In contrast, the Vancouver Park Board does not differentiate membership in regards to the level of fine, as it states the minimum fine for smoking in a park or other regulated outdoor space is \$250²⁹. However, the Park Board states that its “primary goal is voluntary compliance with the smoke-free bylaw through education, but sometimes enforcement is necessary. Park Rangers, City of Vancouver bylaw enforcement officers and Health Inspectors all have the power to issue tickets to offenders”. It should be acknowledged that the interpretation of policies can be fluid, depending on the experiences of people interpreting it, as well as the history of incidents that have brought the policy into use. This means that policies and written consequences are noted as a “final determination” guideline when events rarely transpire in the exact same way as on the paper.

6.2. Main Interview Findings

I interviewed professionals in their field at SFU and UBC. George Venini, architect and senior project manager for the SFU Plaza Renewal Project and Dean Gregory, landscape architect for UBC shared some of their insights on the public campus with me. I also spoke with SFU Development Planner Elizabeth Starr for another perspective on space design as well as Arlene Chan, Film and Events Liaison in UBC’s Department of Planning for an understanding of space usages and booking. I obtained informed consent via email to every contact, using I form which I later brought in hard copy for them to sign before each interview, with the understanding that their names and statements will be public and shared for the purpose of this thesis. In this section, I organize my main findings in a table

²⁸ The University of British Columbia Board of Governors: Policy SC2

https://universitycounsel-2015.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2019/08/Smoking_Vaping-Policy_SC2.pdf

²⁹ Park Board Smoking Regulation Bylaw

<https://vancouver.ca/your-government/park-board-smoking-regulation-bylaw.aspx>

and discuss in detail what I learned from interviews, while taking into account of what I found from bylaws, literature, media sources, and personal observations.

6.2.1. Architects and Planners Perceive a Public Campus

My first request for an interview with UBC security forwarded me with a response to contact the Community Development within the department of Campus and Community Planning first, as they understood that my study focus was on exterior public spaces. After I spoke with Film and Events Liaison, Arlene Chan, I decided to proceed for an interview with UBC security directly in order to cover more ground. In addition, I could not say that UBC planning was actually speaking on behalf of UBC Security, even though I was first directed to speak with them on questions regarding public space. My final request for an interview was honoured and I spoke with Acting Director for UBC Campus Security, Ali Mojdehi. The general outlines of their responses in regards to public space appear in the following tables.

Table F) Professionals interviewed at SFU

Profession	SFU Security Supervisor	Architect and Senior Project Manager, SFU	Development Planner, SFU
Response to the question of whether campus is public space	Technically private property, with open invite to public	Public Space	Yes, absolutely. Especially in the exterior

Table G) Professionals interviewed at UBC

Profession	Acting Director, UBC Campus Security	Landscape Architect, UBC	Film and Events Liaison, Community Development and Planning, UBC
Response to the question of whether campus is public space	Private Space	All of the public realm area of UBC is public	Public Space, as UBC is a public institution. As Far as I'm aware, UBC is public property

The remarkable point revealed in Tables F and G is that all campus security strongly agrees that their institutions are private space. Even when my interviewees do not necessarily have solid knowledge of all the facts, they remain confident in their views. Different theorists have various views of public space and I compare my observations to these definitions in Table H.

Table H) Public Spaces as a Space of Encounter? Summaries of Selected Theories
Adapted from Devereux and Littlefield's Literature Review, "Privatisation of Public Space"

	Description of Public Space	Observed at UBC?	Observed at SFU?
Sennett	-Public realm is social experience beyond that surrounding the family. -Opportunity for people to see, meet and engage with others in society	Yes, social range beyond the family. Limited opportunity to encounter community outside academia or university services	Yes, social range beyond the family. Limited opportunity to encounter community outside academia or university services

Zukin	-Proximity, diversity, accessibility are key characteristics of space that allows encounters to happen -The public define "public" by their use of space	Encounters more likely between fellow students, scholars, than other social groups	Encounters more likely between fellow students, scholars, than other social groups
Cybrivsky	-Parts of new developments that are freely accessible to the public and are intended for social interaction, relaxation, or passage	Yes, from urban design	Yes, from urban design

Table 1) Descriptions of Public Space Source: Devereux and Littlefield

	Description of Public Space	Applicable? Comments for UBC	Applicable? Comments for SFU
Meert et al.	-Quasi-public spaces areas: Places that are legally private, but in public domain. -Privately owned, but where everyone has the right to enter unless violation of rules	Yes, matches description given by security	Yes, matches description given by security
Lees	-Distinction between public and civic space. Ex. Shopping Malls can be public but not civic	Yes. Campus spaces can be public but focused more on university events than civic functions	Yes. Campus spaces can be public but focused more on university events than civic functions

Kohn	-What makes public space is use, not ownership	Yes, but if a space is less used by non-students it will be seen as less public, even if popular with students	Yes, but if a space is less used by non-students it will be seen as less public, even if popular with students
De Magalhães	-Liberal interpretation of space, public space allowed to be used without restrictions than those dictated by accepted social norms	Yes, in line with statements from interviews	Yes, in line with statements from interviews

Both Venini (architect at SFU) and Gregory (landscape architect at UBC) agreed that their campuses are more accessible to the public now than they were previously. As indicated on the 2009 UBC Public Realm plan, the campus previously had lots of open roads for automobiles and parking lots. The plans compared UBC conditions to examples of other university campuses that made pedestrians a priority. During my site visits ten years later in 2019, these photographed locations have very much improved and fulfilled the Public Realm plan. Under Gregory’s direction, many major roads became pedestrian walks and new public spaces were activated in the form of squares and plazas. Gregory highlighted some of the major transformations:

When I first came to the campus [In 2009], it was difficult for me to take a photo without seeing something ugly. There were parking lots, roads. By pedestrianizing it, we made it a more beautiful place. Once we put out the benches, seating, people started appearing. There weren’t places for them before. We added seating on Main Mall, now it is a place in its own right instead of getting from Point A to Point B. The campus itself developed haphazardly over time without consideration to the public realm.

Both Venini and Gregory were cognizant of the fact that UBC and SFU are serving a larger community now. To the question, “How is the campus transforming from a daytime campus into a 24/7 residential community? How is this reflected into the current design of its public spaces?”, both agreed on improving lighting and improved safety standards. At SFU, there are guardrails that are low but acceptable to building standards at the time it

was originally built. The renewal project calls for new safety guardrails and Venini pointed out that young children in the AQ would need to be careful as they might fall into the pond. Good paving and universal accessibility are points that were emphasized as indicators that the campus grounds are for all. “We don’t have walls here. All of the public realm area of UBC [as indicated on the Public Realm Plan] is public”, Gregory stated.

To the understanding of both architects, the campus grounds are open and welcome to the general public. However, the architects make distinctions between the parklike spaces on campus from general public parks managed by the Vancouver or Burnaby Parks Board in that there is a target user and audience in mind. Amenities on campus prioritize the needs of the university community. Gregory elaborated, “I think people recognize this is a particular community. Although there is no wall around it, people recognize it’s got a purpose as an institution of higher learning for members of that community.” Venini explained, “Unlike Parks Board, there are no restrictions on activities and hours. The public places around SFU, such as courtyards and the AQ are equally public”. As additional note from both Dean Gregory and SFU Planner Elizabeth Starr is that no spaces on UBC or SFU campuses are legally designated “public parks”, even though they appear green and parklike. UBC’s James Everett Memorial Park is located on the Endowment Lands while Richard Bolton Park is part of UniverCity. According to Gregory, the greenspaces and outdoor features at UBC are different from other urban parks in many ways. He elaborated, “I don’t think [outdoor] drinking fountains make much sense, given the limited resources. Many people on campus have associations with buildings. Same as trashcans. Which is different from an urban environment where you may not have association with a building. People [with association to those buildings] may not want you to go in and get water”. This statement implied that in a typical urban environment, buildings are less accessible to the general public, when compared to university buildings on campus, which are relatively more accessible for people who need to use washrooms or fountains. For instance, most individuals would not expect to casually stroll into a private residence or office workspace in order to use the washroom. In the case of UBC, this expectation is shifted in favour of barrier free access to main buildings at a university environment due to the high proportion of the population with association to these buildings and the institution. Another group of space users at UBC are people who are heading to Wreck Beach, which is part of Pacific Spirit Regional Park. “We don’t provide amenities to serve that population, we don’t have a restroom. It’s different from City of

Vancouver Parks. This is a place of buildings sitting on a landscape. Most people are here not to just hang out on a landscape”. This statement suggested that the general campus landscape is not seen as a destination in itself, but rather an accessory and connecting network to the buildings which forms the body of the institution.

When asked whether there were examples of defensive architecture to discourage certain uses, such as barriers to prevent people from sleeping or the homeless, both university architects maintained that was not a consideration in their designs. Core campus spaces at SFU were not meant for sports, including recreational skateboarding. Gregory stated skateboarding is actively discouraged on campus due to resulting damage to features like stairs and lack of public safety since the campus was not designated to be a skate park. This is contested, however: at times, skateboarders have even taken hammers to destroy barriers to skating.

Even though Venini described the SFU campus plaza renovations throughout 2019 as the “most disruptive it will get”. While the renovations started mostly to repair physical problems in the structure, including replacing tiles and leaky roofs, the result is intended to enhance and actualize Arthur Erickson’s original vision. “Erickson’s vision is still alive today. Part of what we do here, architects and planners, work to not only enhance what is here but to work with the vision”, Venini said. Because the concrete body of SFU encompasses most of the built campus, the visual and physical state of SFU is largely fixed and less transformable. The layout of its building sections and corridors ensure it will always be a pedestrian campus, as it had from the beginning. There are no bicycle racks outside SFU’s Bennett Library on Convocation Mall because it is not an environment that was designated for cycling. By design, movements through campus are restricted to foot since it was not a place optimized for vehicles or bicycles to go through. For safety and for ease of access, the main building complex of SFU is always left open and left unlocked 24 hours as a public corridor. The majority of main entrances are left open so someone can effectively get through campus from the bus loop to residence³⁰. Gregory summarized the new UBC environment: “We used to have buildings on streets. Now we have buildings among landscapes. This is the difference between urban and campus environment.” On

³⁰ Correspondence with SFU Security Supervisor Jason Morlin, July 2019

the contrary, SFU's campus does not contain buildings on streets but highlights pedestrian pathways situated on a constructed landscape.

In all my interviews, the professionals expressed their views confidently without ambiguity or confusion. They answered in an authoritative tone on all my questions, especially the direct question on whether campus is public or private. While conversing, Gregory candidly expressed his reasoning on why UBC is public but communicated that the answer to ownership of UBC is actually not so clear.

This is not the city of Vancouver. This is the campus of the University of British Columbia, and we're the owner although the owner is also the province. We exist because of the province. By that we are not private in any way. We're an entity of the province...and so, as the public...as the government, I mean...you get into ownership stuff here. Who owns it? I don't know! [laughs] Is it the Province who ultimately owns this space or University of British Columbia? I think it is...I don't know. I don't know the answer to that question. There's crown corporations. This is not a crown corporation. There's universities...but these things all exist as an extension of the government. So...you know, it's not like a city. We have our own security system. On the other hand, the RCMP is also our municipal police force. We are kinda pseudo part of the city and not, we're self-regulating. In terms of are we a public space? In the broadest sense, yes, we are public space. There is no restriction to movement on this campus.

SFU Planner Elizabeth Starr began the interview by acknowledging that exterior public space has been neglected on SFU's Burnaby Campus. "There has been so much focus on renewal. The only way we get public spaces is if there is something wrong, like leaking. We are shifting priority from buildings to the public realm". Similar to Venini's explanation that structural repairs to the aging complex were the push factors behind this renewal project, the potentials of SFU's common spaces were overlooked for many years. Looking ahead optimistically, Starr had many visions for SFU's spaces: "Our public spaces could be animated with things that really help us learn. Trottier Observatory is really a place to experience academic. To me, that is academic tourism". Elaborating on the meaning of experiencing the academic in public space, the Science Courtyard is successful because it is an accessible barrier-free site that invites people to learn, sometimes without even realizing that they are learning. There are light up panels of star charts in various seasons and details such as phases of the moon are etched onto metal picnic tables. As I see it, these kind of educational spaces on campus hold the potential for inviting members of the public to explore further, and entice prospective students to enroll in relevant courses. The SFU plaza renewal project comes at a convenient time to improve the public realm and

update the aesthetics of the 1960s campus. According to Starr, the SFU campus is “Absolutely public space, especially in the exterior”. When I asked for a clarification on whether there are any differences for exterior public spaces, the response was “I personally don’t believe our public realm stops at the door”. There were positive changes to the planning and social life of SFU’s academic public places since the development of UniverCity in 2005. Starr observed,

Oh, it changed us so much in a good way! We saw all of a sudden three generations or more. We saw the children going over, that lived in UniverCity going over to the daycare with the grandparents that are coming to visit and are walking with them. And all of a sudden we see an incredible range of ages on campus. That was the number one noticeable thing to me. I just loved it! I loved seeing a family of all ages on campus. That was fundamental that the campus wasn’t only for students. All of a sudden, it was for everyone. It now became a public place...it was a community. It was for students, staff, and for the academics. And that was it. That was our population base. But now, you know, it’s so different. It’s fantastic. I can imagine it. I was here in 2002 before UniverCity started so I do recall very clearly that difference...There has been movie nights in the AQ, there’s been attempts to do movie nights on what I call the Maggie Field. They [UniverCity residents] use our recreational spaces, library that is part of the contract. When you buy into UniverCity you will have access.

Hearing Starr’s upbeat commentary, the urban development and resulting social changes at Burnaby Mountain are going positively and according to plan. She expressed enthusiasm that the emergence of UniverCity has brought the SFU campus out from isolation as a community limited mostly to scholars to a wider family demographic including young children and retirees. The planner viewed the Academic Quadrangle and Convocation Mall as “Public spaces with priority to events that celebrates student life. During Convocation [on the grounds of Convocation Mall and the AQ], all of it is clearly a celebration of students graduating”. I agree with Starr observation that by accommodating thousands of new neighbours next to the university, the campus has become more lively and diverse. My personal observations include seeing groups of supervised young children playing around the fishpond. During the summer, the children of SFU childcare even left a mark on the landscape when they created a poster board illustrated with their own artwork reminding all space users to think of the fish by not throwing garbage into the water. It was displayed with a typed note describing how children became concerned upon discovering garbage in the pond, and so they came up with the idea of sharing their message to everyone. “Please respect this place and care for it as much as the children do. Thanks you”, the message ends (Figure 7).

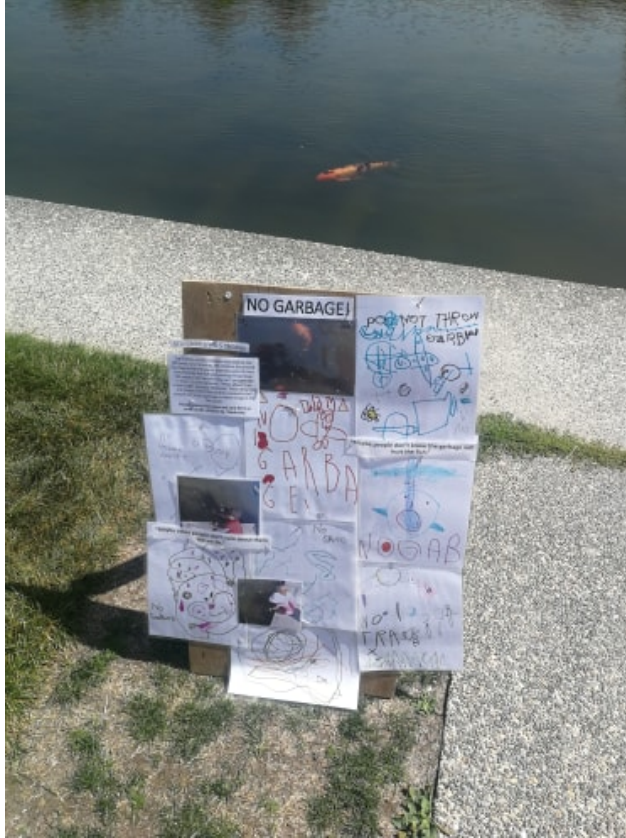


Figure 7) Photo depicting evidence showing the diversity of users on SFU campus. This board crafted by children by the pond of the AQ seen throughout summer 2019 has the headline message “No Garbage!” (Author)

Near the conclusion of our interview, Starr stated “I do think we have a job to do to think about how to welcome people that would come on campus. That is something we can do more. We are a public institution.” She has heard of people expressing the sentiment of being unsure what they can do up on the campus during wider community public consultation meetings. There is still much work to that needs be done for public spaces at SFU.

Exterior public space has been neglected on this campus. There has been so much focus on renewal. The only way we get public spaces if there is something wrong, like leaking. We are shifting priorities from buildings to the public realm...What I’ll like to see is how can we encourage our students to experience the public realm? Forest walk, experience native culture, students have to see it! Our students are so fortunate to be here. Let’s change that dialogue...it is access to green they are talking about. The Convo Mall doesn’t give us that. Our public realm is not even perceived as public realm. I find that disturbing.

Starr subscribes to Sennett's description of public space that should engage people beyond the immediate community. The increased diversity of space users at SFU leads to more opportunities for members of SFU to see, meet and engage with others in society while staying on campus. One salient point Starr brought up is one should consider the fact that UBC has considerably more donors and a larger endowment than SFU. As I noted, the recent development of spaces such as the plaza with the apt official name of "Money and Raymond M.C. Lee Square" by the UBC bookstores reflect the influence and names of donors there. There is a gap when one compares the two institutions in this way. However, I argue throughout my observations and writing that the public spaces of SFU are in reality comparable to UBC in multiple respects, and perform admirably for the providing spaces for university events and the community. "Our advancement on this campus is yet to work on public realm. It was by luck we got the Science Courtyard through Trottier's donation. We would like to see our advancement folk bring a lot more to our campus that adds value to the public realm." I attended multiple Starry Night evenings held on some Fridays with support from the Royal Astronomy Society of Canada at the Science Courtyard, who have made SFU a base for their regular meetings. Astronomy members and enthusiasts bring their own telescopes and these public family friendly events have appeal beyond the academic community.

6.2.2. Campus is Private Property for Security

I interviewed SFU security supervisor Jason Morlin, who provided an extended interview for all my prepared questions on campus space and security procedures. However at UBC, my first request for an interview with campus security was forwarded to the Planning Department, due to public space being my primary focus rather than specific security procedures or concerns. I spoke to Arlene Chan, Manager of Film and Events. I initially made the assumption that the UBC Planning Department was in a position to speak on behalf of UBC Security, as it was Security who referred me to speak with them on matters of public space. Later, after I pushed for a separate interview with security, I learned about the differences between their perspectives.

It was notable that from the perspective of SFU security, university grounds are technically private space, the moment one comes through the Gagliardi Intersection. When asked whether it is accurate to tell people they are on public space at places like the Academic Quadrangle, the response I received was “Public space? It causes problems when people think it is such. Many places seen as public are actually private. Even city parks, which are city owned and city controlled. The [BC] Trespass Act fall into place here. This prevents homeless camps from propping up, gives authorities enforcement in cases like that”. The response from Ali Mojdehi, UBC’s acting director of campus security was the same, by maintaining that campus is private property where public access privileges could be revoked. In contrast, in posing the question of whether this campus is public, both planners from UBC and SFU confidently asserted that campus spaces are public (see responses summarized in Tables 4 and 5).

In response to the question “Is UBC public space?” Arlene Chan, in charge of events and planning replied: “UBC is a public institution. General public can come out. But if you want to hold an event, you need to book the space...as far as I’m aware, UBC is public property. People are not invited but they come here”. The university reserves the right to allocate whatever spaces are available or appropriate for events and there are spaces that are not normally available for bookings. When I posed the question to UBC’s acting director of campus security about the contrasting response from architect and planner, he responded “As security, I have no reason for restricting you from that environment. But all spaces are private space. Even if architects have in mind to create open space, it is still private property”. Both UBC and SFU security remarked that the only true public spaces in a city are perhaps sidewalks, because nobody takes ownership there. The urban public sphere is where police comes in to deal with safety and security matters, instead of managers or hired security guards tasked with looking over a property. “UBC doesn’t have such a thing as public space, it is all private space”, Mojdehi clarified. However, this does not mean that security is against people in general, as he continued, “We try to provide an open and welcoming environment for all. Some places have restrictions. We have labs, spaces that are restricted to some people”.

Under extreme circumstances, individuals have been banned, as I noted in my content analysis of newspapers at UBC, as well as from confirmation by SFU Security during my interview. For example, the Ubyssy recorded that in 2007, an individual was banned from

UBC campus security after making bookstore staff uncomfortable with his continued conversations following complaints, despite the fact that a UBC law professor thought banning him from campus was “ridiculous” (Szeto, April 12 2007). In 2008, a student was arrested and not allowed on campus anymore after making an e-mail threat that targeted the biological sciences building (Jung, Sept 24 2009). It is understandable that security is concerned with the presence of “undesirables” and the nature of this occupation in keeping order and safety points to a defensive way of thinking about space. Although campus public spaces are not designed in a defensive way to any visual extent, it is still at the discretion of security to determine how undesirables, as according to their professional training and understanding, should be dealt with. The professions of architect, planner, and security, differ strongly, which suggests they all have different goals and expectations for the same space. From my experiences and observations, security is generally relaxed about what people do on campus outdoor spaces. The generally accessible design features by architects are compatible with William Whyte’s observation that “the best way to handle the problem of undesirables is to make a place attractive to everyone else” (Whyte, 158). Moreover, “Places that are designed primarily for security worsen it. For one thing, they feature walls. The idea is to keep out bad people. The effect can be the opposite.” (Whyte, 159). George Venini mentioned the agenda of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design or CPTED, which is in accordance with Whyte’s assessment that design of public spaces make a difference in the kinds of spaces they become. Campus security can legally demand users to show their university IDs in order to prove they can use the space, but it is not generally enforced. After the interviews and surveys of literature, I categorize UBC and SFU most in alignment with Meert et al’s conception that they are quasi-public spaces. Security reserve legal enforcement powers over campus grounds when necessary, even though at the same time they belong to the public realm and are kept as open spaces without closures, in agreement with the vision and statements from architects and planners. As I outlined in Table 7, Meert et al provided the definition of quasi-public spaces that applies to the university campuses:

Places that are legally private but a part of the public domain, such as shopping malls, campuses, sports grounds, and in some countries the privatised transport facilities. These are places which are privately owned but where everyone should have the right to enter. To deny a person admittance has to be justified or explained by arguing that the person is violating specific rules and regulations. (Meert et al, 3)

Even though the universities I examine are public institutions that are publicly owned, from the security perspective they are private spaces. Rather than thinking of the campus in terms of civic public spaces on campus and comparing them with academic spaces to see how their levels of public and academic engagement may differ, UBC's Manager of Events and Permitting explained that "The campus is all academic, we are here for the students". This explanation made it clear to me that all spaces of UBC are equally important for students and they do not belong on a spectrum where some places are seen as "more academic" or prioritized for students than others, on a policy level. SFU security prioritizes student use over others, as Jason Morlin said, "Students are the ones paying for the university. Considerations are given to students, depending on what kind of event". In the case of a concert, organizers must book the spaces in advance and it is their responsibility to let people know ahead of time about alternate studying spaces. Similarly, when any outside group books spaces, they must not be disruptive of class and exam hours.

The security's understanding of the private campus does not interfere with the definition provided by architects and planners during normal operation. Jason Morlin was cognizant of this and stated, "We want students and public to be there [on SFU campus]. The University puts pride around its space. The policies [for usage of space] are available online and only people with ill intent will run into problems". At the same time, Morlin noted it causes problems when people simply assume campus spaces are public because the fact remains that they are actually private. Ali Mojdehi agreed for UBC, "We try to provide an open and welcoming environment for all" while maintaining his statement "University is not a public space. No university is a public space. It is a private space. You have invitation to use this space, which can be revoked".

The indicators I gathered from all my selected spaces at UBC and SFU through interviews and observations suggests that they are open for public use, despite being considered private by security. Individuals and groups are welcome to use the space, whether they are students, tourists, the general public, as well as the marginalized population, including the homeless. But there is an understanding and general unspoken agreement that full, unrestricted access to spaces, privileges, and meaningful participation on campus is only guaranteed for the "in-group", in this case students, scholars, or members of the university community. Campus security is trained to look after the well-being of this particular group, with programs like Safewalk. For example, only students can

participate in student political life by voting in student council elections or attend many select events, including those occurring on generally open campus grounds, where a valid student ID card is required. This distinction may exclude faculty members, staff, or even students from different departments at specific times. A form of exclusion exists and is institutionally reinforced on university spaces. However, this form of social exclusion should not be equated with social injustice, social deprivation, or segregation because university students make up the majority of a relatively privileged, distinct group within the greater urban community. Students pay fees every semester that fund an extensive variety of programming on campus to enrich their academic and extracurricular experiences. Not every individual and space user at UBC and SFU, including many who contribute to the vibrancy of university public life in their own ways, are “full members” or “citizens” with the “passports” to mark them eligible to participate in all areas of university life. Social programming with information booths and activities such as club days or recruitment for varsity sports take place on Convocation Mall and parts of University Commons. There is no restriction for who can view or take part of it, to an extent. However, students are the only group who can benefit from these programming and social activities in any meaningful way. The target audience are individuals who are required to provide their student number and other relevant information before they can join a club or sports team. From this perspective, UBC and SFU serve as a kind of “scholar’s retreat” from the city that can be likened to a camp or academic resort. Both places are relatively distant from the downtown business districts of the city, located close to nature, and known for their scenery. The campuses provide all the immediate resources that students need to be successful, while dining options, commercial services, lifestyle amenities have also grown, following the development of residential neighbourhoods.

6.3. Discourse in Documents and Media

Official planning documents that are publicly available such as SFU’s 2065 Interim Report (Urban Strategies et al., 2019) and UBC Public Realm Plan (UBC Planning, 2009), all use the term “public space”, reflecting the visions and perspectives of architects and planners. For example, in the elements of campus that needs to be reassessed, SFU’s report noted “Many key public spaces do not accommodate gathering”. UBC’s plan

extensively referenced ways to improve the character and flow of “public spaces” on campus.

In his obituary, real estate developer, philanthropist, and UBC chancellor Robert E Lee was credited as the “Spark behind UBC’s remarkable Makover” He served as director of UBC Properties Trust and proposed 99 year-lease market housing on campus for the benefit of the University’s Endowment Fund (Ryan, 2020). A 2019 feature on Lee’s contributions introduced him with the anecdote

On a wide red-brick sidewalk that winds through UBC’s Wesbrook Village, kids on bicycles cycle past Robert E Lee, the 85-year-old visionary whose plan to turn a commuter campus into a bustling network of family neighbourhoods has succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. (Ryan, 2019)

Lee’s sentiments on transforming UBC from a commuter campus parallels campus planner Elizabeth Starr’s vision for SFU. UBC was described like a “ghost town” when classes emptied out at night around the period Lee joined the UBC Board in 1984 and he recalled “There was nowhere to have coffee!” when he was a UBC student in the 1950s (Ryan, 2019). UBC has ambitious long-term plans to expand on-campus housing to accommodate 47,000 students and residents, almost double the current figure in 2019. By 2041, UBC projects approximately 29,000 residents in campus neighbourhoods, and another 18,000 in student housing (Ryan, 2019).

An altercation between a can collector and security officer on campus grounds dated February 22, 2000, confirms the statement from UBC’s acting director of campus security (Platt, 2000). Mike Sheard, then assistant director of campus security, said campus security has the right to ask for identification because the campus is private property. Although there was no specific campus security policy for street people or can gatherers, Sheard stated “We can ask for identification to determine whether the person belongs here”. If the person has no reason to be at the university, he or she may be asked to leave. Through a literal interpretation of this, then university campuses are not public spaces at all, despite the open design that appears welcoming and accessible to all. However before one should reach that conclusion, Sheard also said that the decision to ask for identification is a judgement call. “If a person does not provide an officer with ID, we have no authority to shake it out of them...[but] we can ask them to leave”. The Ubyssy article included a statement from Craig Jones, president of the BC Civil Liberties Association, on the difficulties of determining whether a person didn’t belong or had no business at the

university: “There’s something to be said for private property, but there’s got to be some balance struck. The property interest in the university is a unique one...there’s an expectation there’s some degree of public access”. As first responders to the maintenance of space, this incident demonstrates the complex issue of identifying “undesirables” by security, which can include specific people, behaviours, and events.

A more recent incident involving a member of the public at SFU occurred in 2018. It was reported that the man had been harassing and stalking women on campus for years. As many as 50 women posted on social media about their encounters with a man who enters classrooms, asking for numbers, and even following them home on the same buses. Jashan Randhawa, a former SFU student compiled a list of incidents reported on Facebook, as well as to him personally, and forwarded it to campus security. Once the university learned about this incident, security staff identified the man and issued him a trespass notice barring him from all SFU campuses (Naylor, June 1 2018). In this case, student initiative made a difference in pushing security to take action. However, SFU security director Steven MacLean advised Randhawa to stop conducting his own action related to this matter in order to preserve the investigative process, while encouraging women to report incidents to campus security and take advantages of safety resources available on campus. In a parallel case, students criticized UBC on Twitter for not doing enough when a “pick up artist” was spotted on campus while filming videos and coaching male clients on meeting women. In this case, campus security responded that although his actions may be distasteful, they are not illegal, therefore there is nothing the university can do to keep him away (Azpiri, September 19 2016). From this example, it is evident that the university made the judgement call to not bar this individual from accessing the campus, despite some public outcry and negative publicity. At the same time, it is conceivable that security could choose to go in the direction of issuing a trespass notice to the “pick up artist” on the grounds of “harassment”, “solicitation” or “using private space for the purposes of unapproved business” .

Representative planning documents on the public realm at these two universities, including the SFU 2065 Interim Report or UBC’s Public Realm Plan do not discuss safety in any depth, aside from mentions of improving pedestrian safety, traffic, and lighting on the SFU report. A keyword search for the term “security” on these two documents did not yield any results. In a way, the campus security and planning team see slightly different

environments. As I learned from my interviews, university architects and planners make their best efforts to design an open and welcoming campus to everyone. I did not see evidence of intentional “defensible architecture” to discourage loitering or prevent specific activities, such as spikes to prevent sitting and sleeping. But even when there is an open physical design, security policies still incorporate “defensible” elements underneath a sunny appearance.

6.4. Student Newspaper Coverage on Campus Developments

As I confirmed with George Venini, the primary factor behind SFU’s Academic Quadrangle plaza renewal project is mostly for infrastructural purposes, with priorities on fixing leaky roofs as well as decreasing the amount of concrete on campus. When publicized in early 2018, the project was expected to take about three years to complete at an estimated cost of \$38 million (Mann, Feb 26 2018). “Believe it or not, it’s the roofing project which is kind of driving the whole thing”, Venini told the Peak. At the same time, the plaza renewal project pays homage to the original concepts Arthur Erickson designed for the campus. The 50 year old damaged terracotta tiles on the AQ plazas are the reason for the leaky roof. While reparation takes place, new aesthetic features include dark granite tiles at the transportation centre that become progressively lighter in colour as one climbs the stairs through Convocation Hall and up the stairs again to the AQ, where white granite tiles convey a sense of enlightenment at the top (Mann, Feb 26 2018). SFU’s plaza renewal project is also an opportunity to make some permanent physical changes to the structure by increasing approachability, both physically and socially. Permanent aluminum ramps by the sides of the stage on Convocation Mall will make the stage more accessible to everybody and many currently empty places around campus will be fitted with new furniture to create new places for students to socialize. The gravel plots in front of the Trottier Observatory will also be installed with new planting material, better lighting, and benches, which Venini hopes will make these locations more socially successful on campus (Mann, Feb 26 2018). This concept for developing the space around the Cosmic Courtyard and Trottier Observatory is consistent with Planner Elizabeth Starr’s vision for developing the public realm into places where the public can come together and experience a kind of “academic tourism” in these special spaces for learning.

A content analysis of the Ubyyssey student paper from the mid 2000s to early 2010s reveals that UBC students are cognizant of the transformations happening in their backyard, most evident in the growth of market housing that leads to increases of the campus population. The October 13, 2004 issue's headline is "University to gain from Market Housing", followed by the subheading "Endowment fund to benefit from developers but students can't afford to buy". This was one article out of many on the theme that market housing are not benefiting students, even though they are an important source of income for UBC by providing money for the academic operations of the university. In contrast, this reoccurring conversation on new housing developments being unaffordable to students is absent at the UniverCity development through a reading of SFU's The Peak paper through a similar time period. UBC's official community plan contained a stipulation that half of residents are to have an affiliation at UBC, either as a student or working on campus, Having this provision promotes diversity of the on-campus community by steering away from the "one dimensional community" that might result if only people connected to UBC lived on campus, said Joe Stott, assistant director of Community and Land Use Planning at UBC (Bourdon, October 13 2004).

UBC faced the unique question of whether to amalgamate with Vancouver or to become its own city in the near future. An Ubyyssey article by Eric Szeto from November 28, 2006 is headlined "To become a city or join Vancity". UBC is the largest North American university to exist without a municipal structure. According to the article, UBC had roughly 43,000 students and generated about \$1 billion in revenue annually as part of an unincorporated rural area called Electoral Area A (Szeto, November 28 2006). As Szeto summarized, UBC spent the last few years in the early 2000s investing over \$100 million in developments that establishes a permanent population and "ridding itself of the stigma of being a commuter campus". One example in conflicts of visions between UBC and the then Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) led to UBC being forced to lower its Marine Drive Tower student residences because the first tower exceeded GVRD building height limits and could arguably look down on the nudist Wreck Beach (Szeto, November 26 2006). Taking these developmental considerations into place, UBC fulfills certain aspects of being an urban area, such as having high-rise residential towers, a permanent population with market housing, and conversations about upgrading itself from an unincorporated electoral area to the status of municipality or city.

6.5. Notes related to Personal Observations

I personally witnessed two notable usages of University Commons that has challenged the way I thought of campus space. The first event was a coincidence since I was not on campus for scheduled observation session, and it happened before I formally started my research. On December 10, 2018, there was a small anti-transgender demonstration at University Commons, more specifically the plaza in front of the UBC Student Union Building, also known as the “Nest”. It was initiated by two individuals which caused a disturbance on campus and caused students to become visibly upset. A small crowd gathered around the principal demonstrator and anti-LGBT activist, Bill Whatcott, who had a history of hosting demonstrations on university campuses in Canada. He argued directly with students and members of the public in heated debates for several hours. A student accused Whatcott of promoting hate-speech and responded “You know, you shouldn’t even be here. We don’t need your hate-speech here”. A small counter-protest unfolded as a dozen students responded by chanting “trans rights are human rights” while waving the rainbow flag. I did not participate or interfere with the demonstration in any way but observed how public space was being contested at that moment. A team of RCMP and UBC watched at a distance by the steps of the Nest building and monitored what was happening for the duration of the demonstration (Photo 2). Whatcott, students, and other witnesses, largely kept a calm composure through their exchange of words, which did not escalate to anything physical.



Figure 8) Photo of small scale protest on University Commons outside UBC Nest (Author)

UBC Security and RCMP observed from a distance

This incident was covered by the student paper, *Ubyyssey* (Nguyen, December 10 2018). Clearly, occupying public space for protest is not one of the bookable activities listed under UBC's Policy 107. However, the news story mentions that campus security knew about the individuals coming to campus ahead of time. The report does not elaborate on whether the two demonstrators contacted the university in advance or how security was informed. Vice President Academic of the Alma Mater Society Max Holmes responded, "We've always tried to make sure that everyone feels safe, and of course we don't welcome any events like this near the Nest. We've made sure that they are not on AMS property and we support all the protestors who are out here making sure that people know that trans rights are human rights." (Nguyen, December 10 2018) This statement implies that AMS property such as the Nest building are not public space to the same degree as the plaza adjacent to it and adhere to another set of guidelines. Holmes speaks for the Alma Mater Society and expresses his concerns that students are uncomfortable with the actions of these individuals who would not be allowed to demonstrate in this way near the Nest. As an institution, UBC did not make any public comments on this specific event but permitted it to occur according to procedures understood by campus security and RCMP. If demonstrators on campus constitute a form of advertising by promoting their viewpoints, it

is helpful to read UBC Policy 112, which is all about guidelines for advertising³¹. The first condition on the policy under procedures commences that “Advertising should reflect the values of scholarship and service for which UBC stands...”

The second event I observed during my notetaking session around noon on March 18, 2019. On my scoring sheet for University Commons, I deducted a point in the category “Areas of restricted or conditional use” because the annual end of school year student athletic event “Storm the Wall” was taking place, leaving a section of the plaza fenced off to accommodate a temporarily installed wall for the exclusive use of Storm the Wall participants. The tradition of Storm the Wall is consistent with UBC’s mandate to “support the creation of a vibrant campus, year-round”. According to Policy 107, section 1.2.4, this falls under Athletic or Recreational activities sanctioned by UBC or a UBC student’s organization. In a similar way, when UBC hosted Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2019 in June, a large section of University Commons was cordoned off to serve as a patio space for eating and beer garden for participating customers.

A kind of paradox exists because while the public space ideal celebrates inclusivity, the existence of public space is fundamentally organized around control and exclusion (Shepard and Smithsimon, 27). Both university campuses are located in suburban locations, and not easily ventured upon by foot from the urban core and other commercial areas of the city. A pedestrian does not casually wander onto these university campuses by accident. Therefore, by virtue of its distance, a method of exclusion is enforced. I use the Typology of Public Space developed by Shepard and Smithsimon to clarify the characteristics of public places on campuses at UBC and SFU.

At first impression, the most widely used spaces on campus appears to be the Popular Space, defined in urban literature. Technically “accessible to all” in spaces without gates and policies produced by a public institution, both the Academic Quadrangle and the vast, modern University Commons can potentially accommodate a wide variety of users and uses. My visits to University Commons during lunch hours is reminiscent of the Central Business District of a city. However, the clock of urban life here is governed by a scheduled rhythm of business and appointments, which in the case here, are likely to be the start and ends of many classes. There are bursts of brisk pedestrian activities across

³¹ University of British Columbia Board of Governors: Policy 112
<https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2013/04/policy112.pdf>

the plazas every hour, but the Main Mall of UBC, does not reflect the life of an organic city with all its diversity at various times around the clock. A more apt comparison of the university is to that of a privately development company town, although the nature of the university as a public institution makes its campus qualitatively more public. The case *Marsh v Alabama* in the United States determined that the public can expect to do things normally associated with public space within the company town, including the distribution of leaflets and canvassing views (Devereux and Littlefield, 12).

The key attribute of the Public Space is that it should be free of restrictions and accessible to all, at all times (Devereux and Littlefield, 23). However, the emphasis, at all times, is problematic at an institution where spaces can be booked for various uses. SFU employs a priority ranking for the use of university spaces generally available for booking³². Point A of the policy states “there are categories of University Space that are for the exclusive use of the University and are not available for other uses (e.g., office space, laboratories)”. I do not argue against this as a means of exclusion and taking away public space by a public institution. The spaces mentioned are indoors and can be of a sensitive working nature. For obvious security purposes, offices and laboratories are private and only accessible to authorized individuals. Point B affirms that “Large University-wide events such as Convocation and Orientation supersede most other reservations”. This is a strong official statement confirming that certain purposes can override all other access to places that are normally public in line with the university’s mission. This can be compared to civic festivals like the closure of roads for parades and observations made for statutory holidays. Point C provides a ranking for the use of University Spaces normally available for booking in the order: Academic or Administrative Users, Academic Invitees, Student Groups, Commercial users and other third parties. On the other hand, UBC’s Policy 107 on the Booking and Rental of UBC Space does not chart out a priority list, but lists out a comprehensive range of activities contemplated under the policy of bookable space³³. Activities anticipated by the university by non-UBC affiliated purposes are written out in the category “Business”, which can be commercial or industrial activities of any kind,

³² Simon Fraser University Policies and Procedures: Uses of University Space
https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/policies/files/general_policies/GP36.pdf

³³ The University of British Columbia Board of Governors: Policy 107
<https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2015/02/policy107.pdf>

professional, personal services provided for the purposes of gain, “but does not include an activity carried on by UBC or by agencies of UBC”.

These policies outline the institutional powers held by the two universities in dealing with space. Whatever the amount of commercial, residential, or miscellaneous activities occur on campus, the governing board will have authority to take corrective action so that the approved activities fit in with the missions of a university. The university’s capacity to be selective in approving events, allocating space, and change course as necessary when an activity is deemed to infringe upon its values emphasizes its special role that prioritizes academia and its own students. In this respect, UBC and SFU can be described like communities that have a solemn duty to uphold their educational missions. If that policy of adhering to public education, or an appearance of it, is not included or enforced, then it is no longer truly a university.

Chapter 7. Limitations, Implications, and Future Research

The main limitation of this research is that I examined both UBC and SFU during a period of flux and general expansion on both campuses. The appearances and nature of these public spaces may alter significantly in light of future rapid transit expansions that are currently in negotiation at the time of writing. My methodology focused on hearing from the perspectives of experts rather than the stories and experiences of space users at my selected sites.

Compared with the findings of 31 public spaces around Vancouver's downtown by Rahi et al. published in 2012, that holds scores from -7 (200 Burrard St) to 8 (Library Square North and 1140 West Pender Street), As summarized in Tables 3 to 37 of the Appendix, UBC and SFU's core spaces are admirably accessible for all users. UBC scores range from 7 to 12, and 5 to 12 for SFU, although it must be emphasized that many spaces at SFU were undergoing renewal during the time of this research. It is safe to describe UBC as a place that is continuously evolving its public realm and undergoing construction, both based on my observations over the years and what I learned from primary and secondary sources. My time at SFU Burnaby is more limited since the Urban Studies Program is situated at Vancouver's Downtown Harbour Centre campus.

One of my ambitions in planning this research was to create intercept surveys to learn how people use and perceive space on university campuses, whether it was for studying, social meetings, programmed events, commercial services, leisure, or recreation. The challenges would primarily be logistical, in recruiting a statistically significant sample size representing the major demographics. Surveys and a focus group could create community maps depicting where users go and discover "hot spot" spaces where members of the general public tend to gather, compared to more student centred locations. In the spirit of Sophie Trawalter's study on the perception of how welcoming the University of Virginia campus appears to students from varying income levels, surveys could be given for students and non-students alike to find out if there are any patterns of space usages,

preferred or avoided spaces, for these demographics. It is conceivable that academics and families may have contrasting opinions on the degree of how public a place on university seems to them and correspondingly label certain spaces as more private or public based on their own feelings and experiences.

In this research, I heard from the perspectives of architects, planners, and security, professions focused on the creation, development, surveillance, and maintenance of space. Learning more from the perspectives of space users themselves while gathering qualitative data by documenting their self-reported behaviour and thoughts in public space would tell a more complete story of public spaces. UBC and SFU are examples of universities that have influence over the trajectory of urban development that goes beyond their immediate cities. Their policies in maintaining a balance between prioritizing resources and spaces for students while keeping an atmosphere of inclusivity for everyone else. One area I have not looked into for this research are internal documents such as memos or training manuals from campus security. A content analysis of security documents may reveal whether there is the existence of a watch list of certain behaviours on campus grounds and what security procedures may entail. It would be revealing to find whether certain behaviours on campus have codes, such as encouraged, acceptable, unacceptable, “threatening”, or “dangerous”, for example.

7.1. Conclusion: The Shifting Role of The University as an Institution that Prioritizes Students

MacLean's Magazine published an article by Claire Brownell titled "Freedom of Speech on Campus: Our Survey of Canadian Students", highlighting the discussion status of free speech as one of "Canada's hot button issues" (Brownell, Oct 30 2019). Brownell put forward the view that "universities are supposed to be places where students are exposed to a wide range of ideas and viewpoints". On the other hand, critics maintain that "a preoccupation with protecting students from hurtful or offensive ideas puts free speech in jeopardy". MacLean's survey of 16,000 undergrads found that students do not agree among each other in their preference of: A) "A campus that is open to all types of speech and viewpoints, even if it means students are sometimes exposed to speech that is upsetting or hurtful to them", or B) "A campus that restricts certain types of offensive or biased speech to create a welcoming environment for students". This topic is a flashback to the December 2018 demonstration I witnessed at UBC. There were uneasy moments with confrontations between students and the demonstrator who made provocative anti-LGBT statements. In the end, words did not escalate into anything physical and both RCMP, campus security did their jobs in ensuring order. Campus administration and security make judgements on a regular basis to protect the physical safety and wellbeing of students and the campus community. Even if there are no physical gates in place, the university still reserves the right to approve certain businesses, bookings, or events, and reject ones that are deemed unsuitable for the campus environment. It is not an easy matter to judge whether all free speech and ideas should have free access on campus, or whether some ideas and behavior should be limited or restricted when it offends or upsets members of the university community, albeit not in a physical way.

In my case studies, I have asserted that both UBC and SFU form unique urban campuses in their own right. They are not independent cities or urban centres with their own law making authority but have social and economic influence that extends well beyond their region. They are similar in that both campuses were designed by architects and planners who put effort into making these spaces appear and feel as open, welcoming, and public as possible to students and the general public alike. Within the same institutions, both of their campus security teams disagree with the statement that the campus is a public space and strongly maintain that they are private, with the power to enforce public access and deny privileges to any individuals who violate policies and

viewed as dangerous to the community. In this sense, campus spaces are public to everybody who stays within the perimeters of acceptable behavior. This discussion is relevant to Iris Marion Young's contribution to the politics of difference and her definition of public space as a place that is open to anyone at all times. To security, they affirm that campus grounds are private space since they do not perceive the campus as public space as a place that is accessible to anyone, although the vast majority of users on campus spaces are not apprehended or problematic. Moreover, they reserve the right to revoke access privileges to individuals or organizations. My survey of campus outdoor spaces demonstrates that their spaces can largely be welcoming and accessible to students and the general public alike by design, but still honour the right of management to maintain order in the area. UBC and SFU have developed considerably to the part where they display urban qualities and host a greater population than at any other time in the past. Their future trajectories include urban projects such as rapid transit to UBC and a gondola up Burnaby Mountain. The resulting development boom will present both rewards and challenges that will require careful navigation. When universities are integrated into the urban fabric, they also take in a host of potential urban issues along with all its benefits that administration and security may be unprepared or unwilling to deal with. UBC and SFU both enjoy the financial benefits of having residential developments on their land trusts and it would be revealing to see what kind of adjustments they would be willing to make, both as an institution and in terms of spatial programming, to accommodate thousands of new residents and make them feel at home as long term residents of the university. Students are not a monolithic demographic, but vocal student groups have made their demands known by writing letters to student papers, posting messages on social media, and taking part in peaceful protests. Because students make up the majority of users on campus and are the primary consumers and products of their universities, they rightly deserve to be consulted on planning and future developments occurring on campus and around their community, even if they do not necessarily have the final decision making power. As a counter argument for assigning the most weight to student opinions, most students only stay on campus and associate with the university for the duration of their studies lasting a period of several years before departing for their next life stage, wherever it may be. Individually, their time on campus is short in comparison to longer term residents who are more invested in the future prospects for the university as well as their city.

From my personal experiences as a commuter student, I do not completely favour one university type to the other. A university that is more embedded with the city can provide various employment opportunities for students and a wider range of housing options for students, outside of official residences. Urban campuses like SFU Harbour Centre or Surrey Central are smaller but conducive to the lifestyles of students who hold other roles and responsibilities, for example part-time students that also go to work, or students who are also parents. The identities of these students are fluid and changing as they get off work from their day jobs and pick up their children from school, before attending their evening classes in a convenient, central location. The increasingly flexible educational options offered, including non-degree lifelong learning programs, evening classes and online courses help to make education more accessible and to more people than it was ever before. However, it is understood that the university experience should be about more than going to class. There are extracurricular activities, clubs, networking, social outings and unlimited other opportunities for the student in residence to discover. Therefore, a slightly more isolated campus with its own campus townscape can provide an immersive and rewarding university experience to the full-time student seeking this lifestyle, as in the case of SFU on Burnaby Mountain and UBC, Vancouver.

In the context of the larger policy implication for campus-community design in general, it is difficult to separate the institutional idea of a public university from its physical spaces. A public university that lets information and ideas flow freely collide with the notion of a private space that require memberships or restrict certain behaviour or speakers. The various meanings of being a “member” and space user at a university have been explored in this paper and there are multiple ways that a person can feel they belong on campus, beyond being an enrolled student with a card and student number. Nearby residents feel a kind of membership to the campus by proximity and visiting academics and guests feel a sense of connection to the spaces through their ideas and colleagues they know there.

Both UBC and SFU have architects and planners who are proud of their contributions in creating attractive, popular places that feel welcoming to everyone. However, security plays a cautious and preventative role in maintaining order in this environment. These two contrasting departments balance and complement each other in practice, even though they have contradictory beliefs on public private places, effectively making both campuses quasi-public, in accordance with Meert’s description. The reconciliation point is they all

want people to be on campus rather than focus on restricting access into this unique urban space.

Reflecting on the current events of the COVID-19 pandemic, both UBC and SFU have suspended in-person classes from the week of March 16, 2020, following directions by the BC Provincial Government and health officials (Azpiri et al, 2020). Email received from SFU Student Services on April 16 notified community members that all SFU campuses and buildings remain open with limited access, meaning that the majority of perimeter doors are locked and only SFU community members presenting identification will be allowed access by uniformed security guards who will verify ID cards. Based on the latest information from the provincial government, universities like SFU are deemed “essential services” and remain open but the email also announced that the traditional practices of buildings remaining open around the clock is no longer sustainable with current concerns regarding social distancing and safety³⁴. The broader varieties of membership articulated earlier has been reinterpreted and reduced to individuals carrying acceptable identification, with valid reason to be on campus at this time. When I walked into Harbour Centre for my defense on April 20, campus security requested my SFU card, asked for what reason I was here, as well as the room number arranged for me. The building was dark and nobody else was in the building as on-site services shut down. The range of acceptable activities shrunk considerably and congregations of multiple people together are now undesirable as social distancing is strictly enforced. This is a major transition from SFU’s usual model of leaving its main doors open to the general public at various hours of the day and night. At the time of writing this addition, the university grounds are quiet during the time of year when Convocations and term end events are usually being setup. The buildings of SFU’s physical campus remain closed without physical classes taking place, as with UBC. Whenever possible, classes have transitioned into online formats and presentations. This means students can bring their spaces of learning with them wherever they go when instructors craft modified courses that can be taken part in virtually. Although a date for resuming classes is uncertain, due to the variables for the complexities of producing a vaccine or mutations of the virus, it is clear that institutions will be learning from this experience and making adjustments on moving forward so this space will become accessible once more.

³⁴ SFU Student Services, 2020, personal communication

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UBC Staff

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Appendix Supplemental Images



Figure 9-. Outdoor Classroom at Convocation Mall hosted by SFU Childcare Society (SFUCCS) with children from the society, Highlands Elementary, and the wider community attending on May 6, 2016. This is an example of spatial programming occurring on campus spaces for a non-university student event,

Source: SFU Childcare Society.
<http://www.sfu.ca/childcare/news/2016/outdoor-classroom.html>



Figure 10) Children playing with animated games in UBC's Lee Square



Figure 11) Animated light up games in UBC's Lee Square

Lights on Lee Square at UBC during the evening is part of a project with the goal “to nurture a vibrant and dynamic campus space through the designs projected onto the Square”. Special interactive activities for children and the family creates an instant playground at a space that is normally considered academic during the day. This is an example of temporal spatial programming, when uses for children and university students are separated by time.

Source: UBC Planning. <https://planning.ubc.ca/lights-lee-square-0>

Table 1

Table 1- Scoring Criteria for indicators that control users listed in Németh and Schmidt's Index for assessing the accessibility of public spaces (Rahi et al.)

Table 1	Index Variables	
	Approach	Scoring Criteria
<i>Features that control users</i>		
Visible set of rules posted	Laws/Rules	0 = none present 1 = one sign or posting 2 = two or more signs
Subjective/judgment rules posted	Laws/Rules	0 = none present 1 = one rule visibly posted 2 = two or more rules visible posted
In business improvement districts (BID)	Surveillance/Policing	0 = not in BID 1 = in BID with maintenance and duties only 2 = in BID with maintenance and security duties
Security Cameras	Surveillance/Policing	0 = none present 1 = one stationary camera 2 = two or more stationary cameras or any panning/moving camera
Security Personnel	Surveillance/Policing	0 = none present 1 = one private security guard or up to two public security guards 2 = two or more private security guards
Secondary Security Personnel	Surveillance/Policing	0 = none present 1 = one person or space oriented toward reception 2 = two or more or one person with space oriented at reception
Design to imply appropriate use	Design/Image	0 = none present 1 = only one or two major examples 2 = several examples throughout the space
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	Design/Image	0 = none present 1 = one medium sign or several small signs 2 = large sign or two or more signs
Areas of restricted or conditional use	Access/Territoriality	0 = none present 1 = one small area restricted to certain members of the public 2 = large area for consumers only or several smaller restricted areas
Constrained hours of operation	Access/Territoriality	0 = open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, most days of the year 1 = at least part of the space open past business hours on weekends 2 = open only during business hours or portions permanently closed

Table 2

Table 2- Scoring Criteria for indicators that encourage users (Rahi et al)

<i>Features encouraging Freedom of use</i>	Sign announcing "public space"	Laws and rules	0 = none present 1 = one small sign 2 = one large sign or two or more signs
Public ownership or management	Surveillance and policing	0 = privately owned and privately managed 1 = publicly owned and privately managed 2 = publicly owned and publicly managed	0 = none present 1 = available for customers only or difficult to access 2 = readily available to all
Restroom available	Design and Image	0 = none present 1 = available for customers only or difficult to access 2 = readily available to all	0 = no seating 1 = only one type of stationary seating 2 = two or more types of seating or many moveable seats
Diversity of seating types	Design and Image	0 = no sun or no shade or fully exposed to wind 1 = some sun and shade, overhangs, or shielding from wind and rain 2 = several distinct microclimates, extensive overhangs, trees	0 = none present 1 = one type or style of lighting 2 = several lighting types (e.g., soft lighting, overhead, lampposts)
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	Design and Image	0 = none present 1 = one type or style of lighting 2 = several lighting types (e.g., soft lighting, overhead, lampposts)	0 = none present 1 = one basic kiosk or stand 2 = two or more kiosks/stands or one larger take-out stand
Small-scale food vendors	Design and Image	0 = none present 1 = one or two minor installations, statues, or fountains 2 = one major interactive installation or frequent free performances	0 = gated or key access only 1 = one constricted entry or several entries through doors/gates only 2 = more than one entrance without gates
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	Design and Image	0 = none present 1 = one or two minor installations, statues, or fountains 2 = one major interactive installation or frequent free performances	0 = gated or key access only 1 = one constricted entry or several entries through doors/gates only 2 = more than one entrance without gates
Entrance accessibility	Access and territoriality	0 = gated or key access only 1 = one constricted entry or several entries through doors/gates only 2 = more than one entrance without gates	0 = space not visible and oriented away from public sidewalk 1 = space visible but oriented away from public sidewalk 2 = space visible and oriented toward public sidewalk
Orientation accessibility	Access and territoriality	0 = space not visible and oriented away from public sidewalk 1 = space visible but oriented away from public sidewalk 2 = space visible and oriented toward public sidewalk	
9			

From: Németh, J and Stephen Schmidt (2007). 'Towards a Methodology for Measuring the Security of Publicly Accessible Spaces' Journal of the American Planning Association, 73(3), 283–279

Qualitative Observations

Table 3

Table 3- Summary of qualitative evaluation of public spaces ranking from high public use to decreasing public use (Adapted from Kayden’s “Using and Misusing Law to Design the Public Realm”)

<p>Destination Space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High-quality public space that attracts employees, residents, visitors from outside, and space’s immediate neighbourhood. Users socialize, eat, shop, view art, or programmed events -Users may also visit space for sedentary, individual activities of reading, relaxing -Design supports broad audience, well-proportioned spaces, aesthetically interesting, constructed with first-class materials -Varied amenities, sometimes a single compelling amenity can transform space into a destination space
<p>Neighbourhood Space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High-quality public space that draws residents and employees on regular basis from immediate neighbourhood, including host building, surrounding buildings from three-block radius -Users come for activities like group socializing, taking care of children, individual reading and relaxing

	<p>-Generally smaller than destination spaces, strongly linked with adjacent street and host building, oriented towards sunlight, made with good construction materials, carefully maintained</p> <p>-Typical amenities are seating, tables, drinking fountains, water features, plantings, and trees, but not food or programmatic uses found at destination spaces</p>
Hiatus Space	<p>-Public space that accommodates passing user for a brief stop, but never neighbourhood or destination space use</p> <p>-Ex. Next to public sidewalk, small in size, include basic functional amenities like seating</p>
Circulation Space	<p>-Public space that materially improves the pedestrian's experience of moving through the city</p> <p>--Principal purpose to enable pedestrians to go faster between spaces, make journey more comfortable by providing weather protection</p>
Marginal Space	<p>-Public space that lacks satisfactory levels of design, amenities, or aesthetic appeal</p> <p>-Deters the public from using the space for any purpose</p>

Table 4

Table 4- Typology of Public Space with examples. (Adapted from Shepard, Smithsimon)

Type of Exclusion: Control by:

	Private Owners	Current Users	Government
None	Suburban No local exclusion needed in an exclusive neighbourhood (Millennial plazas)	Temporary Autonomous Zone (TAZ) Users control space and access (Very large protests)	Popular Users not restricted; diverse uses accommodated (City parks)
Selective	Filtered Who uses the space or what activities are permitted is restricted (Shopping Malls)	Community Users control who uses the space (Community Gardens)	Policed Public authorities selectively exclude users or uses (Neighbourhood stop and frisks)
Total	Privatized Goal of decision-maker is to minimize people using the space (Empty plazas)	Abandoned People who could use the space don't (Beach in winter)	Utility Publicly owned but not legally accessible (Train tracks, highway medians)

Descriptions of Site Observations with Tables

Selected Central Public Spaces at UBC

Locations were visited between March and June 2019.

University Commons: New Landmark Square with Study Amenities

Kayden Classification: Destination Space

Public Space Typology: Popular

The plaza was created after the pedestrianization of Main Mall in Fall 2015³⁵. During my visits there was a section fenced off around a dirt pile and a large wall set up for the UBC student event “Storm the Wall”. The paved square is wide and spacious and the space is abundant with chairs and tables.



Figure 12) University Commons and UBC Student Nest housing the student campus hub (Author)

³⁵ Hall Constructors “UBC University Commons - Civil - Site Services, Demolition & Grading”
<http://www.hallconstructors.com/photos/ubc-university-commons-civil-site-services-demolition-grading>

During special occasions such as the UBC Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, a major academic conference, on June 2019, a large section of the plaza becomes a fenced patio beer garden space.



Figure 13) Food and Drinks at University Commons

Fenced area on University Commons serving food and drinks during the week of UBC Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, June 2019. The Nest Building (new Student Union) is at the background. As this was for a special event and not a regular programming, I did not include this in my scoring. (Author)

Table 5

Table 5-Summary of Observation Notes at University Commons

Features that Control Users	Features of Accessibility	Notes
UBC labelled emergency booths with cameras	UBC accessibility shuttles and stop sign outside Alumni Building	Public Wi-Fi provided
Metal dividers on benches, seating areas	Basketball court under renovation	Portion of public space was fenced off during Storm the Wall student athletic event in March and for UBC Congress in June

Table 6

Table 6- Scoring for University Commons

Location	University Commons
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	0
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	1
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	1
Design to imply appropriate use	1
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	1
Areas of restricted conditional use	1
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	0
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	2
Various microclimates	1
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	1
Small-scale food vendors	0
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	2
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	12-5= 7

Natland's Scoring of Accessibility and Security

Table 7

Table 7- University Commons Accessibility

	Criteria	Score
A-1	Well connected by a variety of transportation modes with outside areas; short blocks frequently intersect with connecting pedestrian routes; transit stops conveniently located next to destinations; cycling routes are direct, safe and convenient to use	5
A-2	Distances for pedestrians are as short as possible due to concentrated and compact land uses; routes can be perceived in manageable stages	5
A-3	Routes are inviting and easily traversable by pedestrians; little or no resistance from physical and/or perceptual barriers; vehicles do not interfere with pedestrians use of space or deter pedestrians from accessing space	5
A-4	Equal and integrated access for all physical abilities; if stairs are necessary, they are broken into sections and/or are low and easy to climb and a ramp alternative is provided nearby	5
A-5	Pedestrian routes and public spaces are linked visually and physically to adjacent interior spaces such as building foyers and retail spaces	5
	Total	25/25

Table 8

Table 8- University Commons Security

	Criteria	Score
S-1	All spaces have clearly intended legitimate use; ownership and control of all spaces is apparent; zones of responsibility are clearly delineated	4
S-2	Pedestrians can view all spaces upon approach, they are visibly accessible with clear sight lines, no hidden or recessed spaces	5
S-3	Warm lighting illuminates routes, building facades and other features as well as socially relevant subjects such as people and activities during dark hours; increases visibility and recognition over distance	5
S-4	Conducive to natural surveillance by pedestrians and building occupants; opportunities for them to casually observe street activity	4
S-5	Security presence provides sense of safety and care but is non-obtrusive; if physical installations to deter crime and protect property are necessary, they are designed to fit with the character of the area	3
	Total	21/25

Lee Plaza: UBC's Pedestrian Crossroad

Classification: Neighborhood space to Destination Space, when there is programming



Figure 14) Intersection of University Commons and UBC Bookstore

This busy intersection in front of the UBC Bookstore extends into the larger University Commons and sees much activity and provides ample seating in the form of wooden bench platforms. The prominent Musqueam Post enhances the visual appeal of the popular lunch spot. Starbucks patio seating and UBC farmer's market stands make the location into a busy hub. (Author)

Table 9

Table 9- Summary of Observation Notes at Lee Plaza

Features that Control Users	Features of Accessibility	Notes
Security cameras located high above by street lights	Wooden bench platform UBC Farmer's Market outside Bookstore on Wednesdays throughout season	Popular lunch spot First Nations Musqueam Post and interpretative signs attract visitors High traffic of students, backpack users. Indicator of reading, studying Public Wi-Fi

Table 10

Table 10- Scoring for Lee Plaza

Location	Lee Plaza
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	0
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	1
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	0
Design to imply appropriate use	1
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	1
Areas of restricted conditional use	0
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	1
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	2
Various microclimates	1
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	2
Small-scale food vendors	1
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	2
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	15-3= 12

Natland's Scoring of Accessibility and Security

Table 11

Table 11- Lee Plaza Accessibility Scoring

	Criteria	Score
A-1	Well connected by a variety of transportation modes with outside areas; short blocks frequently intersect with connecting pedestrian routes; transit stops conveniently located next to destinations; cycling routes are direct, safe and convenient to use	5
A-2	Distances for pedestrians are as short as possible due to concentrated and compact land uses; routes can be perceived in manageable stages	5
A-3	Routes are inviting and easily traversable by pedestrians; little or no resistance from physical and/or perceptual barriers; vehicles do not interfere with pedestrians use of space or deter pedestrians from accessing space	5
A-4	Equal and integrated access for all physical abilities; if stairs are necessary, they are broken into sections and/or are low and easy to climb and a ramp alternative is provided nearby	5
A-5	Pedestrian routes and public spaces are linked visually and physically to adjacent interior spaces such as building foyers and retail spaces	5
	Total	25/25

Table 12

Table 12- Lee Plaza Security

	Criteria	Score
S-1	All spaces have clearly intended legitimate use; ownership and control of all spaces is apparent; zones of responsibility are clearly delineated	4
S-2	Pedestrians can view all spaces upon approach, they are visibly accessible with clear sight lines, no hidden or recessed spaces	5
S-3	Warm lighting illuminates routes, building facades and other features as well as socially relevant subjects such as people and activities during dark hours; increases visibility and recognition over distance	5
S-4	Conducive to natural surveillance by pedestrians and building occupants; opportunities for them to casually observe street activity	5
S-5	Security presence provides sense of safety and care but is non-obtrusive; if physical installations to deter crime and protect property are necessary, they are designed to fit with the character of the area	4
	Total	23/25

Koerner Library Plaza: Spacious Paved Area in Between Libraries

Classification: Neighbourhood Space

Public Space Typology: Popular



Figure 15) UBC Koerner Library Plaza morning

This paved plaza in front of Koerner Library on Main Mall has benches and serves a similar function to SFU's Convocation Mall. This car-free space was designed with pedestrians and cyclists in mind, as there are bike racks by the library entrance. (Author)



Figure 16) Temporary "Pop Rocks" giant-sized beanbags on Koerner Library Plaza.

Unfortunately, the programming of this playful installment has ended before the time of my visit. (UBC Planning)

Table 13

Table 13- Observation Notes at Koerner Library Plaza

Features that Control Users	Features of Accessibility	Notes
	<p>Row of benches facing library, additional space for sitting along planters in front of library</p> <p>Bicycle racks</p>	<p>Plaza is linked with pedestrian Main Mall, with metal posts locked to restrict vehicle traffic</p> <p>Students transiting through in waves at 10:50am.</p> <p>More people exiting, entering library between end of every hour 10:50 to 11:05am, presumably to the rhythm of academic hours</p> <p>Public Wi-Fi</p>

Table 14

Table 14- Scoring for Koerner Library Plaza

Location	Koerner Library Plaza
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	0
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	0
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	0
Design to imply appropriate use	0
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	0
Areas of restricted conditional use	0
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	0
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	2
Various microclimates	1
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	1
Small-scale food vendors	0
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	0
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	10



Figure 17) Koerner Library Plaza and Old Main Library

Satellite Image encapsulating the Koerner Library Plaza (on the left) and the Old Main Library Plaza, Learner's Walk and Library Garden (on the right, space surrounding the pond). The green landscaped Library Garden area fills in the space between the two paved public spaces.(Google Maps)

Natland's Scoring of Accessibility and Security

Table 15

Table 15- Koerner Library Plaza Accessibility

	Criteria	Score
A-1	Well connected by a variety of transportation modes with outside areas; short blocks frequently intersect with connecting pedestrian routes; transit stops conveniently located next to destinations; cycling routes are direct, safe and convenient to use	4
A-2	Distances for pedestrians are as short as possible due to concentrated and compact land uses; routes can be perceived in manageable stages	5
A-3	Routes are inviting and easily traversable by pedestrians; little or no resistance from physical and/or perceptual barriers; vehicles do not interfere with pedestrians use of space or deter pedestrians from accessing space	5
A-4	Equal and integrated access for all physical abilities; if stairs are necessary, they are broken into sections and/or are low and easy to climb and a ramp alternative is provided nearby	5
A-5	Pedestrian routes and public spaces are linked visually and physically to adjacent interior spaces such as building foyers and retail spaces	5
	Total	24/25

Table 16

Table 16- Koerner Library Plaza Security

	Criteria	Score
S-1	All spaces have clearly intended legitimate use; ownership and control of all spaces is apparent; zones of responsibility are clearly delineated	5
S-2	Pedestrians can view all spaces upon approach, they are visibly accessible with clear sight lines, no hidden or recessed spaces	5
S-3	Warm lighting illuminates routes, building facades and other features as well as socially relevant subjects such as people and activities during dark hours; increases visibility and recognition over distance	5
S-4	Conducive to natural surveillance by pedestrians and building occupants; opportunities for them to casually observe street activity	5
S-5	Security presence provides sense of safety and care but is non-obtrusive; if physical installations to deter crime and protect property are necessary, they are designed to fit with the character of the area	5
	Total	25/25

Library Garden and Clock Tower Plaza: UBC's Traditional Academic Heart

Classification: Neighbourhood space

Public Space Typology: Popular



Figure 18) UBC Leaner's Walk

UBC's original Main Library (Now Irving K Barber Learning Centre) faces the Library Garden. The pedestrian walk situated by the library is called "Learners Walk". The Library Garden and an ornamental water fountain lies to the left. The 1960s brutalism style Ladner Clock Tower is a prominent part of the campus landscape. (Author)

Table 17

Table 17-Summary of Observation Notes at Library Garden and Clock Tower Plaza

Features that Control Users	Features of Accessibility	Notes
	<p>Learners Walk has accessibility shuttle stop</p> <p>1928 Frank Wesbrook Memorial Bench, named after first UBC president</p> <p>Row of ornamental and functional light posts</p>	<p>Discussion group sitting in circle formation on lawn</p> <p>Indian Residential School History and dialogue Centre is a new UBC building on site</p> <p>Majority of users with backpacks</p> <p>Public Wi-Fi</p>

Table 18

Table 18-Library and Clock Tower Plaza scoring

Location	Main Library, Clock Tower Plaza
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	0
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	0
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	0
Design to imply appropriate use	0
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	0
Areas of restricted conditional use	0
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	0
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	2
Various microclimates	1
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	1
Small-scale food vendors	0
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	2
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	12

Natland's Scoring of Accessibility and Security

Table 19

Table 19-Library and Clock Tower Plaza Accessibility

	Criteria	Score
A-1	Well connected by a variety of transportation modes with outside areas; short blocks frequently intersect with connecting pedestrian routes; transit stops conveniently located next to destinations; cycling routes are direct, safe and convenient to use	5
A-2	Distances for pedestrians are as short as possible due to concentrated and compact land uses; routes can be perceived in manageable stages	5
A-3	Routes are inviting and easily traversable by pedestrians; little or no resistance from physical and/or perceptual barriers; vehicles do not interfere with pedestrians use of space or deter pedestrians from accessing space	5
A-4	Equal and integrated access for all physical abilities; if stairs are necessary, they are broken into sections and/or are low and easy to climb and a ramp alternative is provided nearby	5
A-5	Pedestrian routes and public spaces are linked visually and physically to adjacent interior spaces such as building foyers and retail spaces	5
	Total	25/25

Table 20

Table 20- Library and Clock Tower Plaza Security

	Criteria	Score
S-1	All spaces have clearly intended legitimate use; ownership and control of all spaces is apparent; zones of responsibility are clearly delineated	5
S-2	Pedestrians can view all spaces upon approach, they are visibly accessible with clear sight lines, no hidden or recessed spaces	5
S-3	Warm lighting illuminates routes, building facades and other features as well as socially relevant subjects such as people and activities during dark hours; increases visibility and recognition over distance	5
S-4	Conducive to natural surveillance by pedestrians and building occupants; opportunities for them to casually observe street activity	5
S-5	Security presence provides sense of safety and care but is non-obtrusive; if physical installations to deter crime and protect property are necessary, they are designed to fit with the character of the area	5
	Total	25/25

Selected Central Public Spaces at SFU

Town Square: A Common Space for UniverCity and SFU

Classification: Destination Space

Public Space Typology: Popular



Figure 19) SFU Town Square Summer Block Party

SFU's Town Square faces the main bus loop and serves as the entry for Burnaby Mountain's UniverCity residential development as well as access to SFU's academic campus. Students spill into the space between classes and it is also the commercial, business centrepiece for the residential community. The square has a built in performance space, restaurant patios, waterfall features and steps for sitting. During the summer, the space is lively as a block party area with vendors, musicians, and food truck during weekly Block Parties organized by UniverCity³⁶. (Author)

³⁶ Community Programs and Events. <http://univercity.ca/culture-events/community-programs-events-2/>

Table 21

Table 21- Summary of Observation Notes at SFU Town Square

Features that Control Users	Features of Accessibility	Notes
	<p>Community bulletin board, water fountains</p> <p>Patio space with seating by Starbucks</p> <p>Sheltered space suitable for small concerts</p> <p>Serviced by Food Truck during special events</p> <p>Spacious sitting space on giant steps</p>	<p>Groups of children passing through</p> <p>Lack of easily accessible public Wi-Fi, except by Starbucks</p> <p>Site of numerous community events, including Summer Block Party and Street Fest</p>



Figure 20) Multi-use stairs of Town Square (Author)

Table 22

Table 22- Scoring for SFU Town Square

Location	Town Square
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	0
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	1
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	0
Design to imply appropriate use	0
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	1
Areas of restricted conditional use	0
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	0
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	2
Various microclimates	1
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	0
Small-scale food vendors	0
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	1
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	10-2= 8

Natland's Scoring of Accessibility and Security

Table 23

Table 23- SFU Town Square Accessibility

	Criteria	Score
A-1	Well connected by a variety of transportation modes with outside areas; short blocks frequently intersect with connecting pedestrian routes; transit stops conveniently located next to destinations; cycling routes are direct, safe and convenient to use	5
A-2	Distances for pedestrians are as short as possible due to concentrated and compact land uses; routes can be perceived in manageable stages	5
A-3	Routes are inviting and easily traversable by pedestrians; little or no resistance from physical and/or perceptual barriers; vehicles do not interfere with pedestrians use of space or deter pedestrians from accessing space	5
A-4	Equal and integrated access for all physical abilities; if stairs are necessary, they are broken into sections and/or are low and easy to climb and a ramp alternative is provided nearby	5
A-5	Pedestrian routes and public spaces are linked visually and physically to adjacent interior spaces such as building foyers and retail spaces	5
	Total	25/25

Table 24

Table 24- SFU Town Square Security

	Criteria	Score
S-1	All spaces have clearly intended legitimate use; ownership and control of all spaces is apparent; zones of responsibility are clearly delineated	4
S-2	Pedestrians can view all spaces upon approach, they are visibly accessible with clear sight lines, no hidden or recessed spaces	5
S-3	Warm lighting illuminates routes, building facades and other features as well as socially relevant subjects such as people and activities during dark hours; increases visibility and recognition over distance	5
S-4	Conducive to natural surveillance by pedestrians and building occupants; opportunities for them to casually observe street activity	5
S-5	Security presence provides sense of safety and care but is non-obtrusive; if physical installations to deter crime and protect property are necessary, they are designed to fit with the character of the area	5
	Total	25/25

Academic Quadrangle: SFU's Landscaped Courtyard Park

Classification: Destination Space

Public Space Typology: Popular



Figure 21) SFU AQ Gardens

An iconic centrepiece of Arthur Erickson's architectural design, this immaculately landscaped greenspace is used and photographed to its potential during important gatherings such as the summer convocation pictured here. Public art such as the Avocado, Terry Fox statue and a reflection pond with Koi fish attracts public appeal to this square. (Author)

Table 25

Table 25- Summary of Observation Notes at Academic Quadrangle

Features that Control Users	Features of Accessibility	Notes
<p>Only password required</p> <p>SFU Wi-Fi available</p> <p>Lack of lighting around courtyard space to encourage nighttime use</p>	<p>Pond with fish attract families and children</p> <p>Artwork and sculptures (Avocado, Bill Reid's Black Eagle Canoe) attract visitors and photographers</p> <p>Numerous areas for seating, and suitable places for sitting on the grass</p>	<p>Bordering construction for SFU renewal project not affecting the greenspace as much as I originally anticipated</p> <p>Six distinct sections, including pond space, modern sculpture courtyard</p>

Table 26

Table 26- Academic Quadrangle Scoring

Location	Academic Quadrangle
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	0
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	0
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	0
Design to imply appropriate use	0
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	1
Areas of restricted conditional use	0
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	0
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	2
Various microclimates	2
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	0
Small-scale food vendors	0
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	2
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	12-1= 11



Figure 22) Sign announcing major renewal project at the start of 2019. (Author)

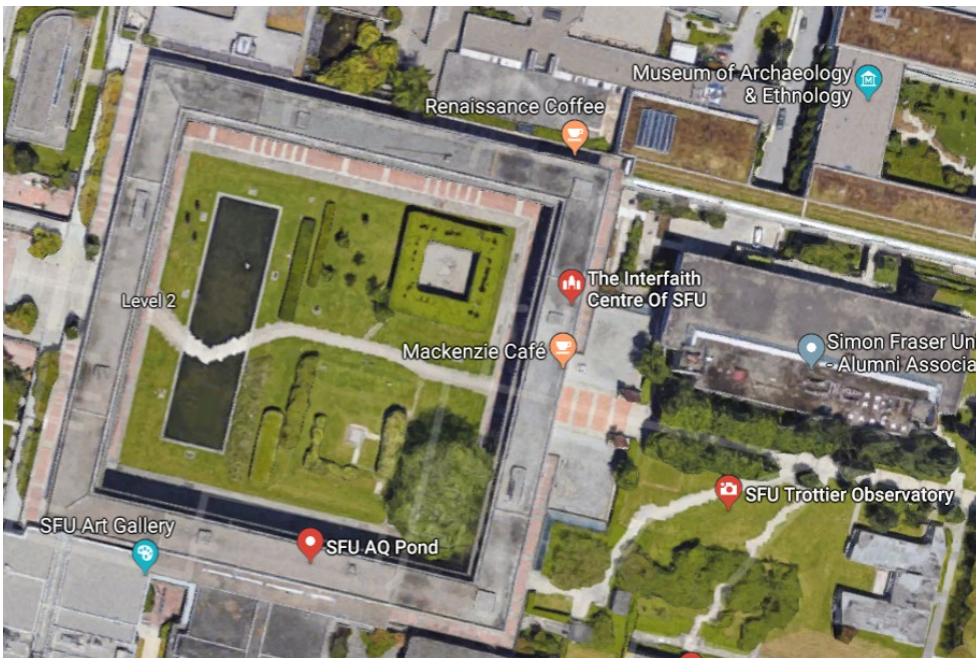


Figure 23) AQ Gardens and Science Courtyard

The green Academic Quadrangle on the left and the newer SFU Troittier Observatory's Science Courtyard is on the right. This satellite image has not been updated to show the

completed Science Courtyard with observatory dome. Pedestrians can walk directly from SFU's Bennett Library facing Convocation Mall towards the AQ, passing through the Trotter Observatory before reaching Town Square and UniverCity. (From Google Earth)

Natland's Scoring of Accessibility and Security

Table 27

Table 27- Academic Quadrangle Accessibility

	Criteria	Score
A-1	Well connected by a variety of transportation modes with outside areas; short blocks frequently intersect with connecting pedestrian routes; transit stops conveniently located next to destinations; cycling routes are direct, safe and convenient to use	4
A-2	Distances for pedestrians are as short as possible due to concentrated and compact land uses; routes can be perceived in manageable stages	5
A-3	Routes are inviting and easily traversable by pedestrians; little or no resistance from physical and/or perceptual barriers; vehicles do not interfere with pedestrians use of space or deter pedestrians from accessing space	5
A-4	Equal and integrated access for all physical abilities; if stairs are necessary, they are broken into sections and/or are low and easy to climb and a ramp alternative is provided nearby	4
A-5	Pedestrian routes and public spaces are linked visually and physically to adjacent interior spaces such as building foyers and retail spaces	5
	Total	23/25

Table 28

Table 28- Academic Quadrangle Security

	Criteria	Score
S-1	All spaces have clearly intended legitimate use; ownership and control of all spaces is apparent; zones of responsibility are clearly delineated	5
S-2	Pedestrians can view all spaces upon approach, they are visibly accessible with clear sight lines, no hidden or recessed spaces	5
S-3	Warm lighting illuminates routes, building facades and other features as well as socially relevant subjects such as people and activities during dark hours; increases visibility and recognition over distance	3
S-4	Conducive to natural surveillance by pedestrians and building occupants; opportunities for them to casually observe street activity	5
S-5	Security presence provides sense of safety and care but is non-obtrusive; if physical installations to deter crime and protect property are necessary, they are designed to fit with the character of the area	5
	Total	23/25

Convocation Mall: A Versatile, Programmable Space with Indoor Quality

Classification: Neighbourhood to Destination Space, when there is programming

Public Space Typology: Shows aspects of a filtered space due to its distance removed from public streets, and requires going through a series of outdoor stairs or hallways within the Academic Quadrangle. The distance acts as a symbolic barrier for greater public access



Figure 24) Newly paved Convocation Mall after renewal project (Author)

This freshly paved and sheltered plaza looks sleek and has much potential for serving as centrepieces of student life. However, at the time of writing in Summer 2019, the Convocation Mall had limited practical space. There was no seating or table available anywhere on the surface of the paved area, preventing people from using the space in any substantial way. The only people observed standing and pausing momentarily within the space as it is currently stands without programming, were people checking or making calls on their cellphones.

Table 29

Table 29- Summary of Observation Notes at Convocation Mall

Features that Control Users	Features of Accessibility	Notes
<p>Space was not very usable throughout the summer when no seating was provided- only users were people who stood there to make phone-calls while standing up</p> <p>No smoking sign</p> <p>Surveillance cameras</p> <p>No bicycle racks, implying this space is meant for pedestrians only</p>	<p>Central site of many SFU programming, including marshmallow pits, information boards, promotion events, movie nights</p> <p>Lighting for night use</p> <p>Moveable metal chairs and tables installed for Fall 2019 school year</p>	<p>Space underwent substantial redevelopment throughout 2019 and seating was provided at start of Sept semester.</p> <p>Construction halted for convocation and Week of Welcome events</p> <p>Not directly accessible from public streets or sidewalks. Users must walk through the AQ Courtyard, up stairs from SFU Transportation Centre, or SFU hallways to get there</p>

Table 30

Table 30- Convocation Mall Scoring

Location	Convocation Mall
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	2
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	1
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	0
Design to imply appropriate use	0
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	1
Areas of restricted conditional use	0
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	0
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	0
Various microclimates	1
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	2
Small-scale food vendors	0
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	0
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	9-4 = 5



Figure 25) Seating and stage arranged for graduation on Convocation Mall

SFU celebrates convocation in its grand, open air tradition. Although seating is limited and graduates are asked to limit their guests to a maximum of four, no tickets or reservations are necessary for this campus community celebration³⁷. The public is welcome to sit and stand anywhere, including from the upper elevated walkways. During Convocation and events for academic purposes, it becomes a filtered space as the activities permitted becomes more restricted. (Author)

³⁷Convocation: “Friends and Families of Graduands”

<https://www.sfu.ca/convocation/friends-and-family.html>



Figure 26) Student initiated marshmallow fire pits in late 2018 before the Convocation Mall underwent complete renovation. (Author)

I could have left the scoring as it stood after the physical renewal was complete in August 2019. However, the start of the new school year ensured the space was well used and its range of diverse programming embodied the spirit of Simon Fraser University, from its movie night, carnival, and Week of Welcome displays. A visit to Convocation Mall in September 2019 saw vast improvements to its user friendliness in regards to elements encouraging the use of public space. My final score reflected Convocation Mall as an interactive and lively meeting space that is successful at attracting users. As a result, the accessibility scoring improved considerably.

Table 31

Table 31 - Convocation Mall September Scoring

Location	Convocation Mall Sept
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	2
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	1
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	0
Design to imply appropriate use	0
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	1
Areas of restricted conditional use	0
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	0
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	2
Various microclimates	1
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	2
Small-scale food vendors	0
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	1
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	12-4= 8

Natland's Scoring of Accessibility and Security

Table 32

Table 32- Convocation Mall Accessibility

	Criteria	Score
A-1	Well connected by a variety of transportation modes with outside areas; short blocks frequently intersect with connecting pedestrian routes; transit stops conveniently located next to destinations; cycling routes are direct, safe and convenient to use	3
A-2	Distances for pedestrians are as short as possible due to concentrated and compact land uses; routes can be perceived in manageable stages	5
A-3	Routes are inviting and easily traversable by pedestrians; little or no resistance from physical and/or perceptual barriers; vehicles do not interfere with pedestrians use of space or deter pedestrians from accessing space	5
A-4	Equal and integrated access for all physical abilities; if stairs are necessary, they are broken into sections and/or are low and easy to climb and a ramp alternative is provided nearby	3
A-5	Pedestrian routes and public spaces are linked visually and physically to adjacent interior spaces such as building foyers and retail spaces	5
	Total	21/25

Table 33

Table 33- Convocation Mall Security

	Criteria	Score
S-1	All spaces have clearly intended legitimate use; ownership and control of all spaces is apparent; zones of responsibility are clearly delineated	4
S-2	Pedestrians can view all spaces upon approach, they are visibly accessible with clear sight lines, no hidden or recessed spaces	5
S-3	Warm lighting illuminates routes, building facades and other features as well as socially relevant subjects such as people and activities during dark hours; increases visibility and recognition over distance	5
S-4	Conducive to natural surveillance by pedestrians and building occupants; opportunities for them to casually observe street activity	5
S-5	Security presence provides sense of safety and care but is non-obtrusive; if physical installations to deter crime and protect property are necessary, they are designed to fit with the character of the area	5
	Total	24/25

The Many Faces of Convocation Mall



Figure 27) Big Screen at First Friday Carnival 2019 before the screening of the film Avengers: Endgame. September 6, 2019 (Author)



Figure 28) SFU First Friday Carnival

SFU Carnival with interactive games before the big-screen community movie night showed the film “Avengers: Endgame”. This event with complimentary hamburgers and snacks showcased Convocation Mall’s capacity as an open, social park where events are targeted primarily towards the student while also appealing to families and the general public.

September 6, 2019 (Author)



Figure 29) Community mural painting open to the public. September 3, 2019 (Author)



Figure 30) New Convocation Mall

The Convocation Mall serves as the University's open-air living room during a typical weekday in September. New additions following the renovation include movable chairs and tables. September 16, 2019. (Author)

Science Courtyard: a Space for Public Education

Classification: Neighbourhood Space to Destination Space, when there is educational and public programming

Public Space Typology: Popular, directly accessible from public walkway directly connected to Town Square



Figure 31) Science Courtyard (Author)

The Trottier Observatory is both used for teaching and public education when the space become animated on Friday Starry Nights events. The courtyard has permanent starcharts and space themed decorations on tables. Scientific themed notches and lighting on the pavement enhances both the academic and public appeal of this space. The courtyard is located on the primary pathway connecting University with the Academic Quadrangle.

In 2017, the Trottier Observatory received the national award of excellence from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects in the category of best small-scale public landscape designed by a landscape architect³⁸. Some of its highlighted features are star-

³⁸ Photos: SFU's Trottier Observatory wins national award for landscape design

<https://www.sfu.ca/sfunews/stories/2017/04/sfu-trottier-observatory-wins-national-award-for-landscape-design.html>

shaped benches, illuminated seasonal star charts, and “star-lit” Milky Way pathways that light up at night.



Figure 32) Detail of picnic tables in the Science Courtyard incorporating design showing the phases of the moon (Author)

Table 34

Table 34- Summary of Observation Notes at Science Courtyard

Features that Control Users	Features of Accessibility	Notes
Surveillance Camera by entrance to Trottier Observatory	<p>Metal tables with seating, decorated with space themes</p> <p>Nighttime lighting and multiple illuminated educational features to encourage nighttime use</p> <p>Space adjacent to courtyard lets the public set up their own portable telescopes</p>	Trottier Observatory open for public viewings most Friday evenings on clear nights in addition to special Star Parties ³⁹

³⁹ Trottier Observatory and Science Courtyard

<https://www.sfu.ca/science/alumni-community/trottierobservatory/starrynights.html>

Table 35

Table 35- Science Courtyard Scoring

Location	Science Courtyard
<i>Features that control users</i>	
Visible Set of rules posted	0
Visible Subjective/ judgment rules posted	0
In Business Improvement District (BID)	0
Security Cameras	1
Security Personnel	0
Secondary Security Personnel	0
Design to imply appropriate use	1
Presence of sponsor/advertisement	0
Areas of restricted conditional use	0
Constrained hours of operation	0
<i>Features encouraging freedom of use</i>	
Sign announcing "public space"	0
Public ownership or management	2
Restroom available	0
Diversity of seating types	2
Various microclimates	1
Lighting to encourage nighttime use	2
Small-scale food vendors	0
Art, cultural, or visual enhancement	2
Entrance accessibility	2
Orientation accessibility	2
Space Score	13-2 = 11

Natland's Scoring of Accessibility and Security

Table 36

Table 36- Science Courtyard Accessibility

	Criteria	Score
A-1	Well connected by a variety of transportation modes with outside areas; short blocks frequently intersect with connecting pedestrian routes; transit stops conveniently located next to destinations; cycling routes are direct, safe and convenient to use	5
A-2	Distances for pedestrians are as short as possible due to concentrated and compact land uses; routes can be perceived in manageable stages	5
A-3	Routes are inviting and easily traversable by pedestrians; little or no resistance from physical and/or perceptual barriers; vehicles do not interfere with pedestrians use of space or deter pedestrians from accessing space	5
A-4	Equal and integrated access for all physical abilities; if stairs are necessary, they are broken into sections and/or are low and easy to climb and a ramp alternative is provided nearby	5
A-5	Pedestrian routes and public spaces are linked visually and physically to adjacent interior spaces such as building foyers and retail spaces	5
	Total	25/25

Table 37

Table 37- Science Courtyard Security

	Criteria	Score
S-1	All spaces have clearly intended legitimate use; ownership and control of all spaces is apparent; zones of responsibility are clearly delineated	4
S-2	Pedestrians can view all spaces upon approach, they are visibly accessible with clear sight lines, no hidden or recessed spaces	5
S-3	Warm lighting illuminates routes, building facades and other features as well as socially relevant subjects such as people and activities during dark hours; increases visibility and recognition over distance	5
S-4	Conducive to natural surveillance by pedestrians and building occupants; opportunities for them to casually observe street activity	5
S-5	Security presence provides sense of safety and care but is non-obtrusive; if physical installations to deter crime and protect property are necessary, they are designed to fit with the character of the area	5
	Total	24/25

Summary of Newspaper Content Analysis

Table 38

Table 38- Content Analysis Summary for SFU's The Peak student newspaper

SFU's The Peak	Public Space	Public Security/ Safety	UniverCity/ Campus Community
Percentages of Issues Present			
2004	50%	13%	38%
2005	20%	30%	20%
2006	56%	0%	26%
2007	50%	25%	25%
2008	75%	0%	25%
2009	11%	33%	33%
2010	33%	11%	44%
2011	0%	43%	14%
2012	56%	0%	22%
2013	13%	13%	13%
2014	28%	13%	0%
2015	73%	9%	18%
2016	67%	8%	25%
2017	54%	15%	23%
2018	31%	8%	8%

Table 39

Table 39- Content Analysis Summary for UBC's Ubyyssey student newspaper

The Ubyyssey	Public space	Public Security/ Safety	Endowment Lands/ Wider Community
2004	50%	8%	25%
2005	46%	8%	15%
2006	25%	17%	25%
2007	50%	20%	20%
2008	71%	14%	36%
2009	62%	23%	23%
2010	57%	29%	14%
2011	50%	6%	25%
2012- Incomplete	100%	43%	29%