The SCSU’s Winter General Meeting

Virtual Meeting to be held 5 PM - 8 PM on Thursday, March 25th, 2021
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Hey Members!

Welcome to the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union (SCSU) Winter General Meeting! Although we are in unprecedented times, we are excited to virtually connect with all of you and inform you, our members, of the hard work we’ve done so far for you.

The SCSU, over the years, has always worked diligently to provide the best programming that engages our membership. Whether through our online events, campaigns and advocacy work, or our members-only cost-saving services, we hope to meaningfully support our members virtually both in the classroom and in the community. We know that working together works and that our victories were only possible because of our 14,000+ students’ united work.

This year, we started our term in the middle of the lockdown. Working and studying from home during this pandemic has proven to be difficult for us all. However, despite being amid a global pandemic, your SCSU team was busy planning for the virtual year ahead of us. We hosted our first-ever virtual frosh, which had about 700 first years sign up. We’ve provided students with job opportunities because we know financial insecurity is at an all-time high right now. That is also why we launched the emergency support bursary to support our members with any financial hardships they might be experiencing, like job loss, house rent, tuition fees, and so much more. We also wanted to let you know that even though our office is physically closed, all of our services are available and provided to you all virtually. These are hard and scary times, but one thing is always sure; collective action works, and even during a pandemic, when students work together, you see the results. All of our accomplishments would not have been made possible without every one of you!

Recognizing that Ontario students pay one of Canada’s highest tuition fees, the Students’ Union takes collective action through the Canadian Federation of Students, with over 500,000 students across the country. Together we are united in the fight for accessible and affordable education for all. This movement requires everyone’s support. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that all students have equitable access to a high-quality education.

A united voice can create amazing things. This is your student movement, and the possibilities become endless when we stand together. Although we should take great pride and joy in our victories, we are reminded that the work does not end here, as there is still much to do, so let’s get to work!!!

Best Regards,
SCSU Executive Team 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To Do This:</th>
<th>You Say This:</th>
<th>May You Interrupt the Speaker</th>
<th>Must You Be Seconded?</th>
<th>Is the Motion Debatable?</th>
<th>Is the Motion Amendable?</th>
<th>What Majority is Required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Object to incorrect procedure being used</td>
<td>Point of Order</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No vote taken, chair rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek clarification from the previous speaker</td>
<td>Request for Information</td>
<td>Yes, if urgent</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No vote taken, chair rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object to something which prevents your continued participation (e.g. Excessive noise)</td>
<td>Point of personal privilege</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No vote taken, chair rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object to a motion being considered</td>
<td>I object to consideration of this motion</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2/3 Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider something out of its scheduled order</td>
<td>I move the agenda be amended in order to deal with the following item...</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2/3 Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeal the ruling of the chair</td>
<td>I appeal the ruling of the chair on...</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change a motion</td>
<td>I move that the motion be amended to read...</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have a motion studied more before voting on it</td>
<td>I move that the motion be referred to...</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, advisability of referral only</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpone further discussion on a motion until later in the meeting</td>
<td>I move that the motion be postponed until...</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Only to time</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postpone further discussion on a motion until a future meeting</td>
<td>I move that the motion be postponed until...</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Only to time</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defer consideration of a motion temporarily</td>
<td>I move that motion...be laid on the table</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise a matter previously tabled</td>
<td>I move that motion...be taken from the table</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reconsider a motion already voted on earlier in the meeting</td>
<td>I move that the motion...be reconsidered</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (if original motion was)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End debate on a motion</td>
<td>I call the question</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3 Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask that everyone’s vote on a particular motion be recorded in the minutes</td>
<td>I call for a roll call vote</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No vote taken, chair rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess the meeting</td>
<td>I move that the meeting recess until...</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Only to time</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End the meeting</td>
<td>I move that the meeting adjourn</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
equity statement
equity statement &
acknowledgement
of land

The following statement shall be read aloud during the opening address of all meetings and events held by the Scarborough Campus Students' Union:

1. EQUITY STATEMENT

As members of the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals. We shall neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Any form of discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated. Hate speech rooted in, but not limited to, anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, sexist, racist, classist, ableist, homophobic, or transphobic sentiments and/or remarks will also not be tolerated. We all have an obligation to ensure that an open and inclusive space, free of hate is established. Any behaviour that does not demonstrate an understanding of these principles and/or creates an unsafe atmosphere will not be tolerated.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

We work towards ending systematic and institutional violence, by including Indigenous people in our collective decision making for social justice and equity. As settlers in Canada we have directly benefited from colonization and genocide of Indigenous people of this land. In order to engage in resistance and solidarity against injustices inflicted on Indigenous people, it is imperative we constantly engage in acts of decolonization. The first thing is to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the treaty of the dish with one spoon, the Anishinaabe of which the Mississauga of New Credit peoples are a part of, and the Haudenaaasane, the people of this tradition territory. I would also like to pay my respect to their elders past and present, and to any who may be here with us today, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.
1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded:

Be it resolved that ______________ be approved as the Chair for the 2021 Scarborough Campus Students’ Union Winter General Meeting.

3. EQUITY STATEMENT AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

4. WELCOMING REMARKS & INTRODUCTION

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded:

Be it resolved that the March 25th, 2021 SCSU Winter General Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded:

Be it resolved that the 2020 November SCSU Annual General Meeting minutes be approved.

7. EXECUTIVE REPORT

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded:

Be it resolved that the 2021 SCSU Winter General Meeting Executive Report be accepted as presented.

8. DIRECTOR REPORT

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded:

Be it resolved that the 2021 SCSU Winter General Meeting Director Report be accepted as presented.

8. ELECTORAL EQUITY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ACT [BY-LAW AMENDMENT]

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded:

Whereas the purpose of the Union is to “work towards building an environment free of systemic societal oppression” [Constitution, 2. h]; and to “endeavour to bring about a fundamental redistribution of socio-political and economic power so as to permit substantially greater participation by students in making those decisions which affect their lives” [Constitution, 2. m]; and to “do all other things that are incidental or conducive to these purposes” [Constitution, 2. l];
Whereas the University of Toronto Scarborough is an evidently growing community of student leaders; Whereas in this growing community of student leaders, the Union ought to provide a platform to as many future leaders as possible and allow them to take reins of the Union to demonstrate their vision for a better Union;

Whereas a purpose of the Union is also to “foster the intellectual growth and moral awareness of students in order to benefit them, the University of Toronto Scarborough Student Community, and society” [Constitution, 2. j];

Whereas international students are subject to the same levy structure by the Union as domestic students yet are prevented from running for Executive positions for the Union due to the nature of the Union's Bylaws on ineligibility, which prevent anyone holding an Executive position from taking more than 1.0 credits per semester

Whereas international students are advised to take a minimum course load of 1.5 credits to maintain their student status in Canada without further complications upon graduation and later, application to request a work permit;

Be it resolved that Bylaw XI – 2.2 (a), under “Ineligibility” be amended from “An Executive of the Union shall cease to be eligible to remain in such office if the Executive: enrolls in more than 1.0 credits per session” to read “an Executive of the Union shall cease to be eligible to remain in such office if the Executive: enrolls in more than 1.5 credits per session”

9. AGENDA ITEM [BY-LAW AMENDMENT]

MOTION Moved: Abdillahi Seconded:

Whereas Bylaw XII currently reads:

3. Committee Procedures
3.1 Committee membership expires April 30th of every year.
3.2 The Committees shall have the right to implement their own procedures which must obtain Board approval.
3.3 All Committees shall meet as needed.
3.4 Notice of meeting shall be given no less than seventy-two hours (72) prior to the start of the meeting.
3.5 Every member has one vote and cannot proxy.
3.6 Not less than half the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
3.7 Committees have the right to strike working groups and sub-committees to assist with the work of the Committee.
3.8 All resolutions of the Committee have to be ratified by the Board.

Be it resolved that Bylaw XII Section 3. to add the following:

Section 3. Committee Procedures

3.9 The order of business at regular meetings of Committee shall include:
   a) minutes of the previous meeting
   b) appointments and resignations
   c) new business;
      i. reports and presentations
      ii. financial statements
      iii. general business
10. COMMITTEES OF THE UNION [BY-LAW AMENDMENT]

MOTION

Moved: Abdillahi  Seconded:

Be it resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union add the following committee to By-Law Committees of the Union

1. Sustainability Committee
   a. The Sustainability Committee shall consist of
      • President
      • Vice - President Campus Life
      • Vice - President Equity
      • Vice - President Operations
      • Two (2) Directors who are not ex-officio Directors who are to be appointed by The Board
      • Two (2) At-large students as voting members
      • Two (2) Non voting members that include recognized clubs, DSAs, societies and/or members in this field

b. The Sustainability Committee shall meet at least twice a semester.

c. The Sustainability Committee shall formulate campaigns regarding sustainability issues and submit work to the President

d. Work with the Vice - President of Equity to facilitate a campus wide discussion and action plan on sustainability and the environment issues report to the President via the Commissioner who will be appointed by the committee.

11. MEMBER SUBMITTED MOTION #1 DIVERSITY TRAINING

MOTION

Moved: Jewish Student Life  Seconded:

Whereas the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union claims to be committed to fighting discrimination regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion and place of origin, and is responsible for creating a space that is inclusive and welcoming;

Whereas the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union is committed to being proactive in approaches to address oppression towards racialized and Indigenous students;

Whereas the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union is committed to developing and implementing strategies from an anti-oppressive framework for inclusiveness in the services, events, and advocacy work of the Students’ Union;

Whereas the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union is committed to working from an intersectional framework that addresses race as it is intersects with and is impacted by other systems of oppression;

Whereas the main and overall intent of this motion is for the SCSU to take - in a timely manner - diversity training from a specified organization when requested;

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union take diversity and equity training by a resource of the choosing of racialized and persecuted minority student groups, such as Jewish Students, on request of aforementioned student groups to the office of the VP equity of the SCSU;

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union training take place within 45 days of the request.
12. MEMBER SUBMITTED MOTION #2 ISRAEL BOYCOTT REFORM

MOTION
Moved: Jewish Student Life
Seconded:

Whereas the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union endorsed the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) brand in fall of 2020, and has failed to address serious concerns raised by the Jewish Community on campus;

Whereas the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) brand is considered antisemitic by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Canadian government;

Note: The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign has led to antisemitic hate crimes, and discrimination against Jewish students on campuses where it is adopted;

Note: Jews in Canada are consistently the most targeted minority group for hate crimes (according to Statistics Canada);

Note: The Complaint and Resolution Council for Student Societies (CRCSS) an independent student body of the University of Toronto found aspects of the UTGSU’s Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions (BDS) Caucus are out of line with UTGSU’s own equity bylaws and policies;

Whereas the main and overall intent of this motion is for the SCSU to no longer endorse BDS;

Be It Resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union no longer endorse the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) brand, be it further resolved the SCSU remain committed to Palestinian justice and peace for all parties;

Be It Resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students’ union no longer boycott racialised and anti-oppressive student organizations such as Hillel and Jewish Student Life (JSL) that fall under groups boycotted by BDS;

Be it Resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union no longer boycott people and organizations on the basis of the Zionist part of their Jewish identity;

Be it Resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students’ union no longer ban the Jewish-LGBT+, Israeli flags;

Be it Resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students’ union Policy and By-laws Committee and VP-Equity will review all future motions, making needed amendments to ensure that they are not in violation of the SCSU equity policies;

Be it Resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union present similar amendments to the Canadian Federation of Students(CFS), and the UTGSU for adoption.

13. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded:

Be it resolved that the 2021 Scarborough Campus Students’ Union Winter General Meeting be adjourned.
minutes
2020 AGM
1. CALL TO ORDER @ 5:15PM

2. APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR

MOTION  Moved: Abdillahi  Seconded: Jamal

Be it resolved that Munib Sajjad be approved as the Chair for the 2020 Scarborough Campus Students’ Union Annual General Meeting

Motion Carried

3. EQUITY STATEMENT AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Read by Uthayakumar

4. WELCOMING REMARKS & INTRODUCTION

Read by Abdillahi

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION  Moved: Abdillahi  Seconded: Sobowale

Be it resolved that the November 26th, 2020 SCSU Annual General Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented

Abdilahi would like to move an amendment and remove Item 22 because it was rescinded and counted as a clerical error

Abdilahi second amendment would like to move Item 21 ([Old Business from 2020 SGM] By-Law Amendment) to Item 9

Item 10 ([Old Business from 2020 WGM] Motion to Implement an Online Voting Pilot to Transition the SCSUElectoral process into a Secure Digital Interface) to become Item 11

What was previously Item 10 was shifted to Item 20

Items 14, 16, 19, and 17 become 11, 12, 13, 14 respectively

Item 14 ([Old Business from 2020 WGM] Wage Equity Act) was shifted to Item 11

Item 16 ([Old Business from 2020 WGM] Committees of the Union) was shifted to Item 12

Item 19 ([Old Business from 2020 WGM] AODA) was shifted to Item 13
Item 17 ([Old Business from 2020 WGM] UTSC EWGs) was shifted to Item 14

Nami requested a point of information regarding the Emergency Motion

Chair clarified that for the AGM all motions must be brought in advance and Emergency Motions are only in extreme circumstances

Rosenblum requested a point of information regarding abstaining from voting on motions

Chair clarified that there is no recognized abstention, however, if someone would like not to vote on a motion they are allowed to do so

Rosenblum clarified that abstentions are not counted

Chair clarified that during the AGM abstentions are never counted

Amendment Carried

Motion Carried

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 
Moved: Abdillahi 
Seconded: Clement 

Be it resolved that the 2019 November SCSU General Meeting minutes be approved.

No discussion

Motion Carried

7. RECEIPT OF THE 2019 – 2020 SCSU AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION 
Moved: Abdillahi 
Seconded: Chan 

Be it resolved that the 2019 – 2020 SCSU Audited Financial Statements be approved as received.

Lee presented SCSU Audited Statement

Motion Carried

8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2020 – 2021 FISCAL YEAR

MOTION 
Moved: Abdillahi 
Seconded: Jamal 

Be it resolved that Yale and Partners be appointed as the external auditors for the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2021.

Motion Carried
9. EXECUTIVE REPORT

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded: Rautela

Be it resolved that the 2020 AGM Executive Report be accepted as presented.

Adilahi discussed the Anti-Black racism campaign at the University of Toronto and within the Scarborough Campus.

Gemma presented the various projects in the works such as: The Free Book Network, maintenance of Academic Integrity, Education for All campaign previously named Fight the Fees. Gemma is hoping to have an Advocacy Week in the Winter Semester to highlight different campaigns. Gemma also sits on the Academic Advising and Career Centre advisory committee on behalf of the Council of Student Services (CSS) about how to best support students. Gemma discussed attending the Mental Health policy council which is a tri-campus and also has been attending UTSC Mental Health Advisory committee.

Chaudhry discussed the Advocacy Week occurring in the Winter Semester, safe housing initiative, student run co-op, consent culture campaign etc. Chaudhry presented the different conferences attended such as: the SCSUS Representative for the TTC Stakeholders meeting, Young Global Leaders workshop and United Nations workshop. Chaudhry has been an active member of TTC Riders and attended the TTC riders rally on September 12th. Chaudhry presented the Volunteer Network Program and official launch in January.

Uthayakumar in May met with other student unions at UofT for pride month and agreed to host an online event for pride in June. In June Uthayakumar met with the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Office and hosted the As You Are event on June 16th. Uthayakumar in June also met with the VP Equity at UTM to plan an event for Indigenous in post-secondary events. In July Uthayakumar attended many meetings such as: Office of Student Experience and Wellbeing, the Advisory Committee on Accessibility. In August Uthayakumar met with the Sexual Violence and Prevention Centre and held the Social Justice and Equity working group. In September Uthayakumar met with the Office of Registrar to discuss SCSU daycare and emergency grant. In October Uthayakumar met with Nadia to review submissions for the Equity and Community funds. In November Uthayakumar met with the Diversity committee to review SCSU emergency and daycare grants.

Ho discussed hosting online Frosh.

Chan discussed seeing over all interviews for hiring and financial training. Chan also met with the International Student Centre with regards to aiding in the fight in the interest for all international students.

Q&A period

Rosenblum sought clarification from the VP Equity regarding an email communication about the discrimination faced on campus for minority groups.

Uthayakumar clarified that the email was forwarded to the team.

Motion Carried
10. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 SGM] BY-LAW AMENDMENT

MOTION
Moved: Abdillahi
Seconded: Hanbali

Whereas as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the province of Ontario has declared a state of emergency during which many of the regular legislative provisions governing non-profit organization member meetings and elections were set aside;

Whereas the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act ("ONCA") has been amended to adopt certain procedural rules ("Temporary Suspension Rules") that apply during a "temporary suspension period", which such period is defined in the ONCA as "the period of the emergency and a further period that ends on the 120th day after the day the declared emergency is terminated and, if the regulations so provide for the section, a further prescribed period of time immediately following the end of the 120-day period";

Whereas the province wide state of the emergency was terminated on July 24th, 2020 meaning the temporary suspension period lasting 120 days from that date is currently scheduled to end on or around November 21st, 2020 and could be further extended by regulation;

Whereas the Temporary Suspension Rules provide that during any "temporary period of suspension" and notwithstanding By-Law requirements for in-person meetings, members’ meeting may be held by telephone or electronic means;

Whereas the Scarborough Campus Students Union currently does not have clauses in the current version of By-Laws (the "By-laws") surrounding the conduct of elections during events that are a result of the circumstances beyond the control of Board of Directors;

Be it resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students Union Board of Directors accept the following By-Law amendments as presented and that such amendments subsequently be presented to the members for confirmation in accordance with the ONCA and the By-laws:

By-Law Amendments

(a) That Bylaw I - Interpretation be amended to include the following provision as section 15, and that the remaining provisions of Bylaw I be renumbered accordingly:

15. Definition of "Force Majeure"

"Force Majeure" shall refer to any event or circumstance beyond the control of the Board of Directors including but not limited to natural disasters, wars, pandemics or other circumstances restricting individuals from gathering in-person;

(b) That Section 2 [Schedule of Elections] of Bylaw VI - Elections of Board of Directors be amended to include the following subsection:

2.1.d Notwithstanding the requirement in these By-laws to hold a general election in the Fall session, in the event of a "Force Majeure" which prevents an in-person election from being held, a general election need not be held in the Fall session and the Board of Directors shall be empowered to appoint Directors to fill the vacancies on the Board of Directors that otherwise would have been filled during such an election, including but not limited to the positions of the First Year Representatives, provided that the Board of Directors follows the recommendations of the Elections and Referenda Committee in respect of such appointments.
Abdilahi motivated the motion
Motion Carried

11. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT AND SANCTIONS

MOTION

Moved: Hanbali
Seconded: Barakat

Whereas the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is working to end international support for Israel’s oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law;

Whereas the state of Israel is occupying and colonising Palestinian land, discriminating against Palestinian citizens of Israel and denying Palestinian refugees the right to return to their homes;

Whereas the BDS movement is inspired by the South African campaign to bring an end to Apartheid South Africa;

Whereas BDS is now a vibrant global movement made up of unions, academic associations, churches and grassroots movements across the world;

Whereas the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union first joined the BDS movement in 2013 at an Annual General Meeting and has been an active supporter of BDS initiatives on campus and in the broader community since;

Whereas this year under the current Executive Committee, members of the Executive have taken steps to undermine the Students’ Union’s stated position on the BDS movement and Israeli apartheid by: (1) displaying an Israeli flag inside the window Vice-President External, Chaman Bukhari’s office, and (2) removing Toronto Students for Justice in Palestine’s posters in the Student Centre that were meant to commemorate Nakba Day;

Be it resolved that, the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union reaffirm its commitment to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement by committing to actively support initiatives that raise awareness about the state of Israel’s ongoing occupation of Palestine and war crimes against Palestinian peoples;

Be it further resolved that, the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union refrain from engaging with organizations or participating in events that further normalize Israeli apartheid; and

Be it further resolved that the Scarborough Campus Students’ Union’s Board of Directors draft a policy resolution to endorse the BDS movement to ensure that future elected representatives and staff of the Students’ Union uphold our collective commitment to justice in Palestine; and

Be it further resolved that the policy resolution mentioned above be presented to the next Annual General Meeting for adoption

Hanbali motivated the motion

Chair clarified that Hanbali is sixth on the Speakers List

Rosenblum sought a point of order and wanted to know if it was possible to switch places with another speaker on the speakers list
Chair clarified that Rosenblum would be at the bottom of the speakers list if they were to remove themselves from their initial spot

Rosenblum clarified if their spot could be yielded to someone else

Chair clarified that it is not possible

Rosenblum spoke against the motion

Siddiqui spoke in favour of the motion

Khan sought for a point of information about where it says individuals cannot run for SCSU if they do not agree

Fine spoke against this motion

Abdilahi spoke in favour this motion

Rosenblum spoke against this motion

Chair clarified that there are points of information that needed to be addressed

Rosenblum requested a point of information with regards as to why this motion was being presented since a previous motion about this topic had been passed before

Rosenblum continued to speak against this motion

Rosenblum asked for clarification

Tamtam spoke against this motion

Chair clarified that Tamtam could not continue to speak because the number of speakers against this motion had been reached but the number of speakers on the speakers list could be extended

Hanbali spoke to amend the motion. Hanbali first requested to add a ‘be it resolved’ clause that states the definition of ‘Normalization’ in accordance with TSJP

MOTION Moved: Hanbali Seconded: Siddiqui

Be it resolved that the normalization of Israeli apartheid is creating situations of circumstances where by people can easily ignore oppression and power dynamics that the state of Israel imposes on Palestine and Palestinians

Rosenblum requested a point of order regarding points of information in the chat that had not been addressed and about interrupting speakers with points of information

Chair clarified that the points of information will be addressed for the original motion

Hanbali moved to motivate this amendment

Imran clarified to speak with regards to the main motion

Fine clarified to amend the main motion
Chair clarified that an amendment to the main motion will occur once the current amendment is voted on.

Rosenblum spoke against the amendment.

Sobowale called to question the motion.

Rosenblum called for a point of information about whether the amendment or the motion were being called to question.

Chair clarified that the amendment was being called to question.

MOTION   Moved: Sobowale   Seconded: Raman

To call to question the amendment and end the debate.

Chair clarified the need to confer an item.

Chair discussed for all those in favour of calling to question and ending debate.

Voting on ending debate.

Motion Carried.

Imran spoke in favour of the motion.

Rosenblum requested a point of order in regards to the previous vote.

Chair clarified that it was not a point of order but a point of information however, Chair recognized that there was incorrect procedure with the previous vote.

Voting on the amendment to the main motion.

Motion Carried.

Imran re-spoke in favour of the main motion.

MOTION   Moved: Tamtam   Seconded: Gemma

Extension to speak 3 in favour and 3 against.

Motion Carried.

Nami spoke in favour of the motion.

Rosenblum spoke against the main motion and clarified points made about her concerns about the motion.

Fine moved a motion to amend.

Chair clarified to state the amendment.

Fine clarified that whereas clauses where BDS is mentioned to be struck.
Chair clarified that whereas clauses cannot be struck as they are not voted on

Fine clarified to include 3 new be it resolved clauses and 1 reworded be it resolved clause

MOTION    Moved: Fine    Seconded: Rosenblum

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Scarborough Campus Students Union will recognize the collective rights of all peoples to self determination in their respective homelands as enshrined in the UN Charter and the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Scarborough Campus Students Union will continue to engage with on campus Jewish organizations such as Hillel and Jewish Student Life;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Scarborough Campus Students Union Boycott is disassociated from Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. The SCSU will maintain its policies, advocating for Palestinian rights it will simply refrain from associating with the BDS brand;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Scarborough Campus Students Union Board of Directors draft a policy resolution to ensure that future elected representatives and staff of the Students’ Union uphold our collective commitment against the discrimination of the Palestinian People and Palestinian Rights.

Nami clarified that a point of order is on the floor

Chair clarified that the point of order could be addressed

Hanbali addressed that the ‘Be It Resolved’ clauses wishing to be added are not allowed and go against the spirit of the motion

Chair clarified that clauses were still being read over to see what is germane

Chair clarified that the ‘Be It Resolved’ clauses are not germane to the main motion and contradictory

Chair discussed that some items must be ruled out

Fine requested a point of order

Chair clarified the last two clauses are out of order as pointed out by the main mover of the motion but the first two clauses are in order

Chair addressed Fine’s point of order

Fine clarified that one can boycott Israel and not BDS

Chair clarified that it is not a point of order but argumentative

Abdilahi requested a point of order with regards to the double negative language

Chair requested clarification

Abdilahi failed to provide clarification

Imran requested a point of order with regards to the double negative language in the ‘Be It Resolved’ clauses
Chair requested that Fine change language in amendment

Fine clarified to add ‘continue to engage’ as opposed to ‘will not refrain’

Fine motivated these amendments

QUESTION CALLED Moved: Sobowale Seconded: Nelson

No further debate on the amendments

Motion Carried

Voting on amendments proposed by Fine

Amendments failed to pass

QUESTION CALLED Moved: Sobowale Seconded: Chaudhry

Motion Carried

Rosenblum requested a point of order about the vote

Clarification about meeting time

Voting on main motion

Rosenblum requested a point of information

Chair clarified that there will be no debate since a question to end debate was called earlier

Voting on main motion

Motion Carried

Rosenblum requested a point of order

Chair clarified that the meeting was still running

Rosenblum called orders of the day

Order of the day @ 8:09pm

The following items were not discussed as the orders of the day were called and the meeting came to an end.

12. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] WAGE EQUITY ACT

MOTION Moved: Dang Seconded:

Whereas the executives of SCSU are paid below minimum wage.

Whereas the hours currently required prohibit international students from participating in the elections of the SCSU.
Be it resolved that the course cap be raised from 2 to 3 per semester in the 2020 Winter Semester.

Be it resolved that the minimum hours required is lowered from 35 to 30.

13. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] ELECTORAL EQUITY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ACT

MOTION Moved: Sahagian Seconded:

Whereas the purpose of the Union is to “work towards building an environment free of systemic societal oppression” [Constitution, 2. h]; and to “endeavour to bring about a fundamental redistribution of socio-political and economic power so as to permit substantially greater participation by students in making those decisions which affect their lives” [Constitution, 2. m]; and to “do all other things that are incidental or conducive to these purposes” [Constitution, 2. l];

Whereas the University of Toronto Scarborough is an evidently growing community of student leaders; Whereas in this growing community of student leaders, the Union ought to provide a platform to as many future leaders as possible and allow them to take reins of the Union to demonstrate their vision for a better Union;

Whereas a purpose of the Union is also to “foster the intellectual growth and moral awareness of students in order to benefit them, the University of Toronto Scarborough Student Community, and society” [Constitution, 2. j];

Whereas international students are subject to the same levy structure by the Union as domestic students yet are prevented from running for Executive positions for the Union due to the nature of the Union’s Bylaws on ineligibility, which prevent anyone holding an Executive position from taking more than 1.0 credits per semester

Whereas international students must take a minimum course load of 1.5 credits to maintain their student status in Canada;

Be it resolved that the Union immediately implement the Electoral Equity for International Students Act as attached (Annex I);

Be it resolved that Bylaw XI – 2.2 (a), under “Ineligibility” be amended from “An Executive of the Union shall cease to be eligible to remain in such office if the Executive: enrolls in more than 1.0 credits per session” to read “an Executive of the Union shall cease to be eligible to remain in such office if the Executive: enrolls in more than 1.5 credits per session”


MOTION Moved: Le Seconded:

Committees of the Union

1. Sustainability Committee
   a. The Sustainability Committee shall consist of
      • President
      • Vice President Campus Life
      • Vice President Equity
• (VP Operations)
• Two (2) Directors who are not ex-officio Directors who are to be appointed by The Board
• (Non voting members that include recognized clubs, DSAs, societies and/or members in this field)
• Two (2) at-large students as voting members

b. The Sustainability Committee shall meet at least twice a semester.
c. The Sustainability Committee shall formulate campaigns regarding sustainability issues and submit work to [Vice President of Campus Life] [the Executive committee]
d. Work with the Vice President of Equity to facilitate a campus wide discussion and action sustainability and the environment issues report to the President via the Commissioner who will be appointed by the committee.

15. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] AODA

MOTION                         Moved: Dang                        Seconded:

Whereas SCSU does not train its board of directors or others in the pillars of accessibility within the AODA,

Whereas the AODA only sets a bare minimum for accessibility in different ways and is undergoing a 2nd phase development,

Whereas SCSU representatives and front-line staff often meet students with different needs,

Resolved that, in public and accommodating consultation with Students for Barrier Free Access and other groups in the Toronto community and with students, the SCSU shall develop a modern universal and inclusive accessibility policy that includes a campus-specific training module and stringent accountability measures to achieve disability justice,

Further resolved that, that the SCSU commit to using all relevant resources at its disposable to ensure any elected official and frontline staff, part-time or full-time, be given continuous training and feedback on how they can improve,

Resolved that, the collective executive committee report back every general meeting to show what progress they have shown in creating a healthy and welcoming environment for students and persons with disabilities,

Further resolved that, the SCSU commit to researching, and consulting with any and all community partners with a stakeholder share in the conversation to develop feasible and ambitious targets for SCSU to become physically and electronically accessible by the end of 2025.

Resolved that, student mental health, sexual violence survivors, and other relevant conversations and intersections also be factored into the executive committee’s deliberations and considerations with community stakeholders.

16. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] UTSC EWGS

MOTION                         Moved: Dang                        Seconded:

Whereas, The Scarborough Campus Students' Union has committed itself to adopting the Sustainability and Action Motion in April of the previous fiscal year,
Whereas, such motion stipulated that SCSU do the requisite research in implementing and adopting sustainability-focused goals and targets and aligning itself with environmental student societies and impactful environmental clubs on campus, along with creating the position of an independent environmental sustainability commissioner,

Whereas, such a motion affirmed by the highest decision making body of SCSU sets the direction of the union regardless of who is in office,
Whereas, such as a motion reminds every student that the SCSU represents that it believes that the climate crisis is not just real, but coming faster than ever,

Whereas, effects of climate change do not discriminate between any student,

Whereas, the SCSU must act in its mandate in protecting “equity in university life”,

Whereas, environmental issues have spiritual, academic, and career dimensions which relate to the mission statement principle of ensuring students have “meaningful opportunities for personal growth”,

Whereas no such work has been seen or done on campus since that motion was amended and passed in April 2019,

Be it Resolved that, SCSU join a permanent, independent, and arms-length working group on the environment,

Further resolved that, such a working group on the environment be composed of:
[2] Representatives from Regenesis UTSC
[1] Representative from UTERN at UTSC
[1] Representative from Enviro-Care UTSC
[1] Representative from Parks Canada UTSC
[2] Representative from the SCSU, with at least one representing the Board of Directors
[Any interested students]

Further resolved that, the Representatives from the SCSU are selected on the basis of Simple Majority vote at the earliest possible board meeting in the fiscal year,

Further resolved that, the working group shall have the responsibilities of:
• Fostering Equitable Environment, Sustainability, and Regeneration-focused research and action on the UTSC campus,
• Collaborating and strengthening each others’ event planning,
• Creating a united front of environment-related concerns for the wider UofT and non-UofT community,
• Strengthening the work that UTSC, as the entire campus, is doing to combat climate change

Further resolved that, the working group shall be generally governed by the current edition of the Guide to Consensus Building by Lawrence Susskind, Jennifer Thomas Larmer, and Susan McKearnan, with exceptions made by the discretion of the chair of the working group,

Further resolved that, the chair of this working group be the UTSC UTERN representative,

Further resolved that, as chair of the working group, such a representative shall have the power to decide the date of meetings, the procedure and flow of meetings, and the preliminary agenda,
Further resolved that the environmental working group does not need to report to board meetings, but minutes will be published on the utern.org website and the scsu.ca website.
17. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] AGM QUORUM ACT

MOTION
Moved: Sahagian
Seconded:

Whereas the purpose of the Union is to “organize students on a democratic, co-operative basis for advancing the interest of the UTSC student community” [Constitution, 2. b];

Whereas the purpose of the Union is to “bring students together to discuss and cooperatively achieve necessary educational, administrative and legislative progress wherever decision-making affects students” [Constitution, 2. D];

Whereas in the past, the Union has failed to conduct Annual General Meetings due to a lack of quorum and has, as a consequence, failed to fulfil its duties towards the students;

Be it resolved that every Director of the Union shall ensure that they represent twenty five unique students as proxy so that the Annual General Meeting quorum can be met at all meetings and all Annual General Meetings conducted as planned.

18. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] AGENDA ITEM

MOTION
Moved: Le
Seconded:

Whereas Bylaw XII currently reads:

3. Committee Procedures
3.1 Committee membership expires April 30th of every year.
3.2 The Committees shall have the right to implement their own procedures which must obtain Board approval.
3.3 All Committees shall meet as needed.
3.4 Notice of meeting shall be given no less than seventy-two hours (72) prior to the start of the meeting.
3.5 Every member has one vote and cannot proxy.
3.6 Not less than half the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
3.7 Committees have the right to strike working groups and sub-committees to assist with the work of the Committee.
3.8 All resolutions of the Committee have to be ratified by the Board.

Be it resolved that Bylaw XII section 3. to add the following:

Section 3. Committee Procedures

3.9 The order of business at regular meetings of Committee shall include:
a) minutes of the previous meeting
b) appointments and resignations
c) new business;
i. reports and presentations
ii. financial statements
iii. general business
19. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] MOTION TO IMPLEMENT AN ONLINE VOTING PILOT TO TRANSITION THE SCSU ELECTORAL PROCESS INTO A SECURE DIGITAL INTERFACE

MOTION
Moved: Kouyoumdjian
Seconded:

WHEREAS the topic of online voting has been controversial. The University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus (henceforth UTSC) has had a concerning incessant rise of voter apathy in the past four documented election years.
WHEREAS the Scarborough Campus Student Union (henceforth SCSU), has been the epicenter of controversy and claims of corruption. While the claims lack proper substantiation, there are facts that arouse suspicion in the general populous, and;

WHEREAS the acting SCSU members, being the students of UTSC, have suggested online voting for two consecutive years, which failed due to the issue of security being poorly researched in the original motion.

WHEREAS security, with the proper countermeasures being imposed, are too negligible an issue in light of the benefits that come with the motion. There are three primary purposes to online voting. The purposes include addressing abysmal voter turnup, quality of life, and voting transparency and accessibility.

WHEREAS the following addresses the voter turnup:

WHEREAS in 2018, the SCSU elections featured an approximate voter turnup of 20%. This implies that just under 14'000 students were represented by at most 2'800 students, and;

WHEREAS in 2019, the SCSU elections featured an approximate voter turnup of 11%. Currently, 14'050 students (13'694 undergraduates, 356 graduates) are being represented by at most 1'513 students, and;

WHEREAS current data from the 2019 SCSU Elections website states that (including spoiled ballots):
- 1’480 students voted for a President.
- 1’489 students voted for a Vice President Operations.
- 1’513 students voted for a Vice President Academics.
- 1’494 students voted for a Vice President Equity.
- 1’453 students voted for a Vice President External.
- 1’468 students voted for a Vice President Campus Life.

WHEREAS the highest voting rate can be found in Vice President Academics, with a 10.7% voter representation. The lowest voting rate can be found in Vice President External, with a 10.4% voter representation. The 2019 year stands as the lowest voter turnout in the more recent SCSU history.

WHEREAS current data from the 2008 Elections Catalogue marked that within Canadian elections, ~59% was the LOWEST voter turnout. This number is over five times the voter turnout in the past year. Overall, the facts highlight low voter participation, even for a student union’s standards.

WHEREAS current data from Sir Anthony Downs’ Theory of the Calculus of Voting, p.27, models voting turnout, which was later adapted in 1968. The model is denoted as: \( V = pB - C + D \), Given:
- \( V \) = voter probability turnout,
- \( p \) = probability the vote ‘matters’,
- \( B \) = benefit of voting Candidate A over Candidate B
- \( C \) = Cost or effort to vote
- \( D \) = Citizen duty/psychological goodwill

WHEREAS the only variant value in the case of the SCSU elections is ‘C’. The SCSU elections hold constant ‘p’, ‘B’, and ‘D’ values as there are always multiple candidates and the notion that ‘every vote counts’ has
been emphasized through slated candidates and especially independent candidates to the student body, resulting in a constant ‘B‘, consequently resulting in a fairly high pB (close to 0.6). ‘D‘ is constant through students holding a duty to express their voice. It is the role of the SCSU to mitigate the ‘C‘ variable.

WHEREAS current data from UofT By the Numbers 2018 give rise to the ‘C‘ that students currently face. This includes an average enrollment of 8.1 courses per year. Many students hold on average two extracurricular activities per year. Student schedules would be filled and their effort to go in person and vote is high, commuters have it worse. Online voting would mitigate ‘C‘ and is statistically anticipated to increase the voter turnout by 11% at minimum.

WHEREAS online voting has the high potential to promote SCSU electoral voting.

WHEREAS the following addresses the quality of life:

WHEREAS we stand in the midst of the information era, whereby many university lectures are recorded and uploaded digitally. It stands to reason that online voting can exist given the technological means.

WHEREAS online voting can be compared to the advent of the automobile. Society shifted from carriages to automobiles. While carriages are functional, they are impractical, and;

WHEREAS modern paper voting was established in 1629 – while the method is functional, more effective and practical modes of electing students have emerged, as expected with technological advancement.

WHEREAS in 2010, the University of Toronto established a secure digital voting platform at www.voting.utoronto.ca and said the website has been used in conjunction with physical ballots as a method for voting. Both the Department of Student Life and the many branches of the Governance Council support the usage of voting.utoronto, and;

WHEREAS the Department of Student Life’s Clubs and Leadership Development subsection talks about the security and relevance of online voting. With respect to the Governance Council, page 48 of the Governance Election Guidelines 2019 states:

“(2) Web-based Voting
(a) Voting for Teaching Staff candidates will be conducted primarily through an electronic ballot on a website designated by the CRO. Voters who do not have an email account within the utoronto.ca domain will be provided with mail ballots. Information concerning mail ballots is provided in the next subsection.
(b) Teaching Staff, with an e-mail account within the utoronto.ca domain, may only vote using the electronic ballot.
(c) The electronic ballot will be accessible from the Elections Section of the Governing Council website.
(i) To use the electronic ballot, a voter would log in using the voter’s personnel number and date of birth.
(ii) Each eligible voter will only be granted access to the electronic ballot once; a voter may not exit the website and log in another time.
(iii) Access to the electronic ballot will be granted if the personnel number and date of birth inputted correspond with the list of eligible voters, compiled using staff records from the Human Resources Information Systems and the Federated Universities.
(iv) Upon logging in, the electronic ballot will display the names of the candidates in alphabetical order by surname.
(v) The voter will be given the option to cast a ballot.

WHEREAS online voting allows every student to have the opportunity to vote easily, as student work can conflict with voting times, whether it be classes, commutes, work studies, or personal vacations.
WHEREAS the students that may not be involved with student politics will be engaged by implementing online voting, consequently depolarizing the representation of students in the voting process.

WHEREAS online voting is a technical innovation that, like automobiles, will positively impact the quality of life for the voters in SCSU, and as other functionally democratic bodies have adopted it, so should the SCSU.

WHEREAS the following addresses the voter transparency and accessibility:

WHEREAS voter representation of AccessAbility students is neglected. Students, both unregistered and registered, under AccessAbility are still members of the student collective the executive union serves, and;

WHEREAS they are entitled to a vote. Those with any magnitude of impairment may or may not feasibly vote in the election without concerns of secrecy and convenience.

WHEREAS current data from the mission statement of the SCSU states: “The Scarborough Campus Students’ Union (SCSU) democratically unites and represents the diverse undergraduate student body of the University of Toronto Scarborough, to advocate on their behalf, to advance their experience, while serving their needs and interests.” And; “The Board of Directors and Executives form the Student Union’s core and they are the group that is working at continuously further expanding the broad range of advocacy work, events and services that are provided to all our full-time and part-time UTSC student members.”

WHEREAS failure to consider the AccessAbility student population would vehemently counter the mission statement that the student union abides by. The responsibility of accommodating students in the student union elections rests on the SCSU.

WHEREAS current data from Elections Canada acknowledges online voting for accommodating. They state, "With regard to special populations of electors, Internet (especially remote) and telephone voting may also be methods of engaging those voters who are considered the hardest to reach, particularly young people aged 18 to 30. These electors are most familiar with the technology, are the most frequent reported users and would likely benefit the most from the extension of remote types of electronic voting. Remote Internet and telephone voting seem to be especially useful ways of engaging young people away at university and who are not registered to vote in that particular constituency. Second, Internet and telephone voting could allow greater secrecy for special populations of electors with disabilities (including visually or hearing impaired). By voting electronically and therefore unassisted, these electors are afforded a greater degree of anonymity when casting a ballot. Enabling secrecy for these groups enhances the equality of the vote.”

WHEREAS online voting will mitigate the student body's concerns of accessible and autonomous voting. The following addresses the prevalence and security of online voting:

WHEREAS the most common and valid concern with a digital election is security.

WHEREAS the University of Minnesota Student Union, University of British Columbia Student Union, Oakton Community College Student Union, Student Society of McGill University, University of Toronto Student Union, Algoma University SU, Carleton University SU, McMaster University SU, Trent University SU, University of Guelph SU, Western University SU, Lakehead University SU, Laurentian University SU, OCAD University SU, Ryerson University SU, and over 20 other universities use online voting in their student union elections.
WHEREAS out of the many universities researched and all instances that the universities have used online voting, there were a total of 361 instances with only 3 cases of security failure, this is less than 1% of cases.

WHEREAS instance 1 was due to the Chief Emailing Officer failing to restrict the vote to undergraduates and also improperly emailing students (omissions of certain populations). This instance is attributed to human error and can be avoided with adequate countermeasures and following proper procedure, and;

WHEREAS instance 2 was due to a student finding a loophole in the (custom student made) voting form, whereby submitting and refreshing would allow another ballot to be cast. The extra student votes were discarded. This instance is attributed to technological error and is usually the main example when used to argue against the online voting movement. This can be avoided with adequate research into a secure and credible company interface as opposed to using an improvised undergraduate-made school project, and;

WHEREAS instance 3 was due to a student changing the voting form element to have the names on the check boxes shuffled. This instance is attributed to both human and technological error, as a rudimentary website element change is the easiest way to tamper with the voting form. The reason why this tampering was successful was by having a digital interface where ALL students voted on ONE device (i.e. one shared computer). This can be avoided by simply asking students to vote using their own devices as opposed to someone else’s device.

WHEREAS security appears as a primary issue with online voting, but statistical publications from the Elections Canada site mark the likelihood of internet and virus attacks to be extremely small (given that most evidence used against online voting is circumstantial and targeted toward a federal level), and;

WHEREAS voter turnup is substantially greater and the statistic is far less circumstantial, and;

WHEREAS the SCSU is not a country. Due to the target population being magnitudes smaller than a country (and given the proper usage of the software), the probability of a cyber-attack is negligible.

WHEREAS Elections Canada concludes: “It is important that the public retain a strong sense of confidence and trust in the electoral process and be generally supportive of the notion of electronic voting.”

WHEREAS distrust in the system is due to hard skepticism of the overall electoral process

WHEREAS electronic voting is extremely viable as students of UTSC have reasonable access to computer labs through the Department of Information Instructional Technology (IIT) at the University of Toronto Scarborough. Students may also utilize their own computers or can default to utilizing paper ballots as desired by the student themselves.

WHEREAS overall, the most secure platform for student union online voting for UTSC is SimplyVoting.

WHEREAS SimplyVoting maintains a strict standard of quality through their insurance policies, whereby any breach of security or privacy will result in a compensation of $2,000,000 to the SCSU, and;

WHEREAS current data from the company representative note that company errors and omissions in the data will be compensated with $5,000,000 to the SCSU, which ensures that any errors that occur will either be due to Student Union negligence or met with a sizable reimbursement.

WHEREAS SimplyVoting add that every hour of site downtime is $1,000 compensated to the SCSU.

WHEREAS current data from OWASP notes denial of Service attacks to be the most common cyberattack, wherein a server is flooded with incomplete data requests until the server eventually crashes, and;
WHEREAS this attack blocks out voters from being able to vote for a period of time, but it does not compromise security, and this is still covered by SimplyVoting’s aforementioned downtime policies.

WHEREAS SimplyVoting also directly accepts Shibboleth single-sign-on (UofT UTORID login) plugs, making the online access easy. This was due to UofT already screening SimplyVoting as a secure interface.

WHEREAS SimplyVoting integrates a paper and digital ballot cross-reference system, which ensures that no one person can vote twice, even if the vote is submitted simultaneously on multiple devices.

WHEREAS current data from the SimplyVoting website notes their extensive security countermeasures, including TLS 1.2 encryption, daily Trust Guard PCI Compliance security scans, vulnerability scans by WhiteHat Security and source code security audits by HP Fortify, DomainKeys Identified Mail, Sender Policy Framework, FortiGate Unified Threat Management firewall, and even includes CloudFlare to counter the threat of Denial of Service attacks.

WHEREAS the overestimated cost for the yearly use of SimplyVoting will not exceed $2'800. This can easily be offset by the cost of paper ballots being greatly reduced and also implementing an optional incidental.

WHEREAS electronic voting has been thoroughly researched and, if given the proper interface and security, will pave the way to an accessible, transparent, simple, green, and effortless election, as seen through Adekitan et al. (2018) Implementation of E-voting System for Student Union Government Elections (can be found at DOI: 10.12928/TELKOMNIKA.v16i5.9739).

BE IT RESOLVED that the SCSU will utilize the www.simplyvoting.com website while maintaining the option for students to submit via paper ballots. The SCSU will review the aforementioned articles as well as the guidelines behind utilizing the ‘Simply Voting’ platform. The SCSU will be responsible for the permitting of online balloting to all eligible students in their SCSU General Elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that voting section Bylaw VI, “Elections of Board of Directors” be amended to:

“(4) Voting
Voting shall be conducted by either electronic or paper ballot. Each voter should be able to vote using their personal electronic device or be provided with the means of voting using either balloting method at all voting booths.
4.1 Each member shall be entitled to cast one (1) ballot for the candidates in an election for each of the Executive Director positions.
4.2 Each member shall be entitled to cast one (1) ballot for the candidates in an election for a Department Director position, in their respective constituency.
4.3 The Chief Returning Officer shall be solely responsible for the administration of the digital voting platform ‘Simply Voting’ as a tool during elections.
4.4 Each nominee may appoint a scrutineer to oversee the counting of ballots when a paper ballot is used.
4.5 Where a member is found to have a cast more than one (1) ballot for any given position, only one ballot shall be counted. If a member has cast a digital ballot and a paper ballot, both ballots shall NOT be counted.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the “Violation of Campaign Rules” subsection in the Elections Procedure Code be amended to include:

“d. Violations of the following nature will result in an automatic disqualification of a candidate: [...] vii. Any candidate that, whether explicitly or implicitly, coerces or otherwise influences a student to vote on the digital interface wherein the candidate is exposed to the student’s ballot interface.
viii. Any candidate that votes on a student’s behalf or, whether intentional or unintentional, engages in other fraudulent behaviour or otherwise abuses the digital interface.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCSU 2019-2020 Policy and Bylaws Committee commence the updating of the SCSU policies. This includes, but is not limited to, SCSU Bylaws, Charter for Referenda,
and the SCSU Operational Policy of the Elections Procedures Code. SCSU 2019-2020 Policy and Bylaws Committee will review the online balloting methods from the active parties listed above and structure their policies accordingly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, to offset the cost of the Simply Voting platform, each active student be given an optional incidental fee, valued at sixty cents ($0.60). The toll will appear as “Incid. Stud.Soc.:SCSU Online Voting”, and all the collected money will be used to offset the cost of the Simply Voting platform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a pilot of the motion be put into placed. After two years, the voter turnout is evaluated. If the average turnout falls below 15%, then this motion may be re-evaluated. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors or Executives of that year to call an immediate General Meeting such that amendments can be imposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, during the pilot, this motion will be revoked if a significant security breach is found and adequately proven to impact the results of any elections within the two years of implementation of the motion. This breach must have occurred while following the proper online balloting protocol as highlighted in the motion, and through Simply Voting’s support. User errors are omitted from this clause. Once more, it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors or Executives of that year to call an immediate General Meeting such that amendments can be imposed.

20. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT ACT

MOTION Moved: Sahagian Seconded:

Whereas voting Directors of the Union hold the Union accountable and play an imperative role in maintaining the quality of the functions of the Union;

Whereas offering a stipend would attract and/or maintain a high quality of Board of Directors, and also incentivize the Directors to attend as many of the Board meetings as possible;

Be it resolved that the Union shall offer a stipend of $50 to every Director for each Board meeting attended for at least one half of the duration of the meeting;

Be it further resolved that the above shall only apply to voting Directors of the Union

21. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] UTERN REPRESENTATION

MOTION Moved: Dang Seconded:

Whereas most levy groups are represented on the SCSU board but UTERN isn’t,

Resolved that, The UTSC UTERN or a representative of UTERN will be granted ex-officio status at the SCSU board effective immediately under By-law V Section 1.6

22. [OLD BUSINESS FROM 2020 WGM] TRANSPARENCY

MOTION Moved: Dang Seconded:

Whereas SCSU executives and board of directors are in their 6th month of office,

Whereas students deserve more opportunities to know the progress of the work that SCSU executives are doing beyond the monthly board of directors’ meeting,
Whereas the livestream is often inaccessible for its length and quality,

Whereas the students represented by SCSU deserve better than no recent postings on the dates of board meetings,

Whereas it was executives this year who, before they became executives, talked up their transparency credentials,

Whereas the result is that, board packages at the time of this motion being written, have not been updated since July 2019,

Whereas the call for students to come to board meetings has not been posted on Facebook since September, except with an event created on the day of the board meeting in October’s case,

Whereas even live streams aren’t announced beforehand on all platforms, leading to students questioning the purpose of these inaccessible live streams,

Whereas this Annual General Meeting date is not published until the confirmation of the room,

Resolved that, the board of directors be tasked with developing a progress tracker on all the different ways executives are making their remuneration worth it,

Resolved that, the Vice President Operations post a 14-day, 7-day, and a day before reminder about the board meeting location, date, and time on all social media channels and the website,

Resolved that, board of directors [as excluding executives] strengthen their oversight role, by researching more to potentially form a permanent SCSU review committee, comprised of:

[1] Executive Director
[3] Board of Directors, elected from the board in secret ballot through Single Transferable Vote, excluding executives
[5] Members in Good Standing, who do not belong to a club, campus organization, university body, student society, or have close ties to any members of the board or staff, whose applications are collected by the Executive Director, and selected by the board using blind hiring practices, in secret ballot through Single Transferable Vote,

Further resolved that, if there is a conflict of interest, such a representative sitting on the committee shall refrain from showing up during the discovery phase, participating in debates, and deliberations of the committee,

Further resolved that, points and complaints made in good faith are to be submitted to at least the executive director, student members of the committee, and at least one director,

Further resolved that, the committee, by a simple majority vote, may decide to close proceedings to the public if there is sensitive information that is being discussed,

Further resolved that, committee proceedings until after all information has been gathered, will be kept confidential until consent between the person making the point and the entire committee are in alignment for release of information to prevent tampering,

Further resolved that, this committee may recommend to the Board appropriate remedies that it sees fit for the resolution of an urgent and substantial point through a simple majority vote within committee.
Further resolved that, this committee may issue time-bound guarantees for people who decide to raise an important point in good faith to protect them from any harassment and threats,

Further resolved that, this committee reserves the right to reject requests for investigations if initial deliberations find the point unsubstantiated in full, maliciously directed to an individual, or any other reason that it reports to the board after each meeting,

Further resolved that, the call for student members to participate in this committee shall go out during July of the fiscal year,

Further resolved that, the committee may decide on its internal procedures so long as they are in accordance with the rest of SCSU by-laws, policies, and principles,

Further resolved that, this committee may be given the special privilege to ask for witness statements and testimony in addition to any evidence related to the case based on a simple majority vote in committee,

Further resolved that, this committee should only meet if there are points to be raised by individuals, with exception to 2 scheduled reviews of board and executive members between October and March of the fiscal year as determined by this committee,

Resolved that dates for the AGM and WGM be set no later than July each fiscal year.

24. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MOTION                                    Moved: Abdillahi                             Seconded:

Be it resolved that the 2020 Scarborough Campus Students’ Union Annual General Meeting be adjourned.
executive report
campaigns & advocacy
executive report
campaigns & advocacy

EDUCATION FOR ALL

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented immense financial difficulties for many students, yet costs continue to increase in light of remote learning. Online learning has presented many challenges, technical challenges, and gaps in the quality of our education. With sudden changes to our education systems that result in missing information or a lack of support throughout the semester, students continue to pay fees for resources that they may not necessarily be accessing. Additionally, many international students pay exorbitant fees that are not regulated the same way as domestic students are.

To combat this issue and many others, the Vice-President of Academics & University Affairs has developed a campaign to advocate for students’ different academic challenges. Bringing together various student leaders across UTSC, the Vice-President Academics and University Affairs has created a working group to bring forward student feedback and develop campaign tools. To date, the Vice-President Academics and University Affairs has brought forward a webinar series, an op-ed, ongoing collaboration with other student unions, and plans for an email tool.

On October 15th, the SCSU launched the first panel of the Education For All Webinar Series, titled Black Learners Matter. This webinar explored unique barriers that black learners specifically face in their efforts to access higher education and how institutions can genuinely support learners and reimagine today’s institutions’ structure. Consecutive panels in this series have explored Indigenous sovereignty, disability justice, and the unique challenges International students face.

As part of the Education For All Webinar Series, the SCSU hosted a number of student leaders to come together and discuss the intersections of Disability Justice and access to education. This panel was hosted on Facebook Live on November 24th, and remains on the SCSU Facebook page. Moderated by the VP AUA, the panelists discussed different barriers that students face when accessing their education, and how it uniquely affects students based on their physical and intellectual abilities. The VP AUA will continue to host this webinar series into the Winter semester, touching on topics such as Indigenous Sovereignty and the unique experiences of International Students.

The SCSU executives have been actively working on a lobby document to present to the administration. This document will outline the pressing need for an accessible education, along with highlighting the ever-changing circumstances that students are in during the COVID climate. The SCSU has come up with 5 demands for the university, which are highlighted in this document.

In addition, the SCSU has successfully launched two sets of academic petitions: Education For All and UTSC Credit/No-Credit petitions. During the pandemic, many students have seen a significant negative impact on their studies. We called on the UTSC Academic Administration, Vice Dean of Academics, Bill Gough and his team to take immediate action to implement credit/no-credit for all students to accommodate students during the pandemic. This particular petition has gathered an overwhelming amount of support, totaling to 1670 unique signatures from students. The SCSU is continuing to advocate for the credit/no-credit petition until the end of the academic year. More information on these petitions can be found on our website.
ADDRESSING ANTI-BLACK RACISM ON CAMPUS

On Monday, May 25, police in Minneapolis, Minnesota, brutally murdered George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man. Two days later, on May 27, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a 29-year-old Indigenous-Black woman, passed during an encounter with the Toronto Police during one of her Mental Health wellness checks. The world was rightfully outraged at how many Black people have died at police’s hands just because of their skin colour. The SCSU released a statement and offered a list of resources Black students can access. However, our conversation does not stop there; Black Lives Matter is not a trend, but a movement that necessitates our solidarity and support as a Students’ Union. We will continue to fight the injustices and the anti-black racism our members face in the classrooms, in the hallways, in our campus, in our city and our world.

The Students’ Union met with representatives from the University of Toronto Mississauga Students’ Union to develop a local campaign strategy. The discussion focused on Black and Indigenous students’ issues, our role as Students’ Unions in offering support, and existing resources available to Black, Indigenous and Racialized students. Together, we are working on a lobby document that captures students’ main concerns across all three campuses. The Students’ Union turned our attention to the community at the University of Toronto Scarborough campus to create our local demands. The demands are as follows:

1. Immediately implement anti-racism and anti-oppression training programs for all faculty, staff and students;
2. Commit to increasing the number of Black, Indigenous and Racialized people in tenured faculty and unionized staff positions at the University of Toronto-Scarborough Campus;
3. Increase the number of grants and scholarships that prioritize access to education for Black and Indigenous students and join students in lobbying the government to convert student loans into non-repayable grants;
4. Create an interdisciplinary task-force led by Black, Indigenous and Racialized students and faculty to implement a strategy to reform the curriculum to reflect our identities better;
5. End the long-standing special constables (police on-campus) program and re-direct funding to community-led safety initiatives;

The Students’ Union with students across the GTA organized a one-day strike for Black and Indigenous students, staff and faculty who have had enough of the persistent and systemic nature of anti-Black, anti-Indigenous racism on college and university campuses.

The Students’ Union is also now engaged with the UTSC’s Working Circle for the Campus Curriculum Review to assess the University’s commitment to inclusion, indigeneity, and anti-racism. The Working Circle’s focus is on Indigenous ways of knowing, Black knowledge, racialized perspectives, and international and intercultural experiences. The Working Circle met on November 19th. At this first meeting, the Students’ Union brought forward our advocacy priorities outlined in the demands above. The Students’ Union hopes to continue working with the Circle to engage campus stakeholders to address student concerns.
BUILDING CONSENT CULTURE

Gender-based violence and rape culture continue to be a priority for the Students’ Union. Despite the campus being closed due to the pandemic, we know that students still experience the harm presented by a campus culture that does not always prioritize and promote consent culture. To support this campaign, the Students’ Union hired a part-time student coordinator. Together, we outlined four priorities for the campaign, which include:

1. introducing internal policies and procedures to guide how the Students’ Union responds to sexual violence,
2. continuing the call for the university administration to prioritize funding for support services for people who’ve experienced sexual violence,
3. addressing harms and pitfalls presented in the University’s existing sexual violence policies, and
4. contributing to broader public education about consent culture.

The Students’ Union started by engaging campus stakeholders and off-campus resources. To date, we have met with the student-run Women and Trans Centre and the university-run Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre. In addition to meeting with on-campus stakeholders, the Students’ Union has started to build partnerships with off-campus resources, including the newly established Consent Coalition, a grassroots coalition focused on public education on topics including transformative justice and consent culture. We have also met with Farrah Khan, a nationally recognized advocate and educator with two decades of addressing sexual violence, and the Dandelion Initiative.

The Dandelion Initiative is a survivor-run collective based in Toronto that offers training and support to organizations and corporations to foster their communities’ consent culture. We are currently awaiting a proposal from the Dandelion Initiative following an initial consultation that will provide us with an action plan to implement peer-led training across the campus, support the development of internal policies and practices, and guide our advocacy efforts towards the University.

Besides meeting with other organizations focused on survivor support, consent culture and addressing sexual violence, we have also started to collect information from students’ unions and campus groups. Our part-time student coordinator created an environmental scan survey distributed through our coalition partners and the Canadian Federation of Students national list service. The survey asks respondents to offer feedback from their work on consent culture and supporting people who’ve experienced sexual violence. The responses will help guide the creation of student-run support services through the Students’ Union.

The Students’ Union has also supported and attended the Writing Circle on November 26, organized by the Women and Trans Centre. On December 8, the Students’ Union partnered with Hart House for a consent culture zine workshop. The Students’ Union provides technical support for the Consent Coalition’s series of seminars on transformative justice and consent on November 29 and December 6.

In January, the entire executive and staff team of the SCSU received two training sessions through the Dandelion Initiative. The training sessions were highly interactive and provided invaluable skills and resources to the team on workplace sexual harassment. Following the training session, we are now in consultative stages with the Dandelion Initiative to develop the SCSU’s own policy on Workplace Sexual Harassment.

A guide on Terms, Resources and Ways of Practice on Consent Culture was developed and shared with the membership to provide space to rethink and reimagine how we practice and define consent in our lives, and our campus, specifically.
SCSU’s Winter General Meeting 2021

CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 • 5 PM - 8 PM

Coinciding with the Sexual Health Awareness Week, the SCSU has secured a generous grant from the University of Toronto Sexual Education Center to purchase a variety of items to provide students with as part of our Consent Culture Campaign. This initiative was aimed at fostering education and empowering discussions on sexual diversity in a comfortable environment.

SCSU has also partnered with the Sexual Violence Prevention & Support Centre to provide “Sexual Violence Disclosure Skills” on Tuesday, March 16 at 10 am. This workshop was open to SCSU Executives/staff, the board of directors and Student leaders on Campus.

SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Finding safe and affordable housing options is a persistent concern for students. Addressing housing concerns among our membership is a priority issue for the Students’ Union this term. To support this work, we’ve hired a part-time student coordinator to develop housing support resources, coordinate advocacy, and research long-term solutions.

Our part-time student coordinator has compiled an online resource covering where to look for off-campus housing, information for new tenants, how to spot a housing scam, rental inspection checklist, roommate agreements and more. The resource will be shared on our website and posted across social media with regular updates to include affordable rental postings in the Scarborough area. This resource is meant to supplement the existing resources at the University of Toronto. The existing resources have been found to share downtown centric housing options that are expensive for most students.

While options are limited, many students rely on on-campus housing. To better understand the needs of students living in residence, we prepared a survey of current and former residence students. This survey will guide our advocacy and services offered to residence students.

Our part-time student coordinator has also begun researching the viability of bringing a student-run co-operative to Scarborough. At this point, the research consists of an environmental scan of housing cooperatives, focusing on speaking with student-run co-operatives. We have organized meetings with six different housing co-operatives and a meeting with the Co-Operative Housing Federation of Canada. In these meetings, we have been interested in hearing about the considerations, costs, and efficacy of co-operative housing models across the country. A preliminary report from this research will be brought to the Board of Directors and the Semi-Annual General Meeting in the Winter semester with a recommendation for next steps.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted many pre-existing disparities, and the current housing crisis is no exception. Housing in Scarborough has been a dreary paradox, with affordable housing not being the most safe and safe housing not being the most affordable. With limited options and resources, students need support now more than ever. This campaign calls for lobbying for more safe and affordable housing options, including dynamic and diverse student housing options such as co-op housing, and more funding to help students. As part of this campaign, we teamed up with the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) to host a Know Your Rights workshop so student tenants could gain a better understanding on how to navigate housing and stay safe. We also worked closely with the SCSU’s Environmental Programs Coordinator to host a Healthy and Supportive Housing Workshop. This served as a more interactive space for students to not only ask questions but have resources that we create pertaining to housing options, types of housing, and all commonly asked inquiries involving housing in the GTA.
STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Mental health resources and support have been a longstanding concern for students at the University of Toronto-Scarborough. This year, these issues seem even more pressing as the pandemic continues to take a toll on student mental health.

To tackle student mental health issues, the Students’ Union released a survey to gather feedback from our membership on their experiences accessing mental health services. The survey offered some quantifiable evidence that supports what we have been hearing from members for years. 47 percent of students surveyed found accessing mental health supports and resources moderately to extremely difficult, with only 28 percent reporting it easy to access these services. 40.8 percent of students surveyed do not believe that the university’s services are adequate, compared to 12% of students who believe the services to be adequate.

While outlining some concerns students have with accessing services on and off-campus, the survey provided an opportunity for the Students’ Union to learn more about what students would like to see from us. We focused on what kind of peer-support services we could offer members to support their mental health and asked what considerations should be made to create these supports. One key consideration that came up repeatedly was an ability to ensure confidentiality in peer support spaces. Another consideration was ensuring diversity in the students engaged in offering support. Many members wanted to see a particular attempt to ensure representation from International students and students who speak diverse languages.

To support this campaign, the Students’ Union has created, for the first time, a part-time student coordinator position to support our advocacy and support regarding student mental health. This coordinator is focused on piloting departmental and constituency-based peer support groups led by existing campus groups in the coming months. The support groups will be launched towards the end of January. The coordinator is also compiling a report for the University administration on how the roll-out of online learning has impacted student mental health. Some recommendations for improving our approach to online and distance education for the Winter semester and future years.

This semester the entire University of Toronto community was shaken by the news of another suicide within our community. Following the news of this loss, the Students’ Union attended an emergency meeting of student activists and elected representatives from all three campuses to discuss an action plan to advocate for better mental health support throughout the university. The meeting was planned by the Mental Health Policy Council, a student-led demanding institutional reform to support mental health. The Students’ Union has continued to send representatives to meetings of the Mental Health Policy Council. Our priority will be to continue to bring our members’ voices forward as we look to support this tri-campus effort.

With growing mental health concerns year after year, the University of Toronto administration continues to do little to prevent student tragedies. The VP AUA, with student leaders across all three UofT campuses, joined the Mental Health Policy Council to discuss different concerns across our campuses and how to lobby the university to preserve the autonomy of students.

Further, the SCSU hosted Student Action Works: a week full of actions and events to showcase all 6 of the SCSU’s campaigns, including a Mental Health Town Hall. Students were able to voice their concerns on campus resources, discuss their positive experiences, and work towards generating solutions for the gaps that students continue to fall through.
On March 15th, President and VP Academics attended a meeting with our sister union UTMSU to discuss the email we received from the university about the review of UMLAP and how they are conducting their student union consultations this week. As usual the university doesn’t take student consultations seriously because we are just wrapping up midterms and final assignment deadlines are fast approaching. Despite these challenges, the SCSU was able to meet with the University faculty and staff conducting the review and we let them know how UTSC students believe that they should rescind the policy completely and focus on providing proactive support to their students by prioritizing their budgets to hire more counsellors and Mental Health professionals. Another recommendation we gave the university since they don’t seem in favour of rescinding the policy is to change the mandated aspect of the policy to voluntary so it doesn’t take away from the Student’s autonomy.

The University has scheduled an UMLAP town hall that is taking place March 26th from 3-4:30PM and we highly encourage all students who would like to see this policy rescinded to sign up to attend.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

The world is at an intersection of multiple crises, including the climate crisis that demands worldwide action. Despite widespread public concern for the crisis and support for dramatic action, there has been little movement on the side of government decision-makers who continue to put profit ahead of our future. To support our advocacy and solidarity efforts surrounding the climate crisis, the Students’ Union hired a part-time student coordinator.

While working on a public education campaign to help members get involved in local and global movements, we have also helped amplify actions taken on by Indigenous land defenders. In Six Nations, land defenders have continued to engage in a peaceful reclamation of their land in what has become known as 1492 Land Back Lane. Despite multiple attempts to dissuade and violently remove these land defenders to make way for housing development, the community at Six Nations has continued to maintain their place on the land for more than 130 days. In solidarity, the Students’ Union donated money to both funds set up by the land defenders. The Students’ Union also issued a statement connecting members to resources to support 1492 Land Back Lane.

While support for the land defenders in Six Nations grew, Mi’kmaw fishers faced attacks from settler fishers. On October 13, the violence intensified as a mob of angry settler fishers trapped two Mi’kmaw fishermen inside a lobster pound, set their van on fire, and stole their lobster catch. Outraged by the violence displayed and local, provincial and federal governments’ inaction, the Students’ Union issued a statement condemning the anti-Indigenous racism and connecting our members to concrete actions. The Students’ Union also donated to the frontline fund and wrote to our Members of Parliament to demand action.

A public education campaign will be launched in the Winter semester, featuring interviews from climate change activists, land defenders, and academics to help our members engage in the movement to protect the land. While contributing to advocacy off-campus, the Students’ Union has met with environmental groups on campus to strategize on-campus actions, including creating a compost program.

As the climate crisis continues to grow, it is important that institutions take a stand on environmental action to combat this global threat. Many post-secondary institutions have recently taken a stand on divesting from fossil fuels, yet the University of Toronto has not taken on such a leadership role as of yet. In order to push for such change, the VP AUA attended UTERN’s Op-Ed Writing workshop, working collaboratively with other student leaders across all UofT campuses to come together and research aspects of fossil fuel divestment. The hopes of this workshop are to write an Op-Ed on fossil fuel divestment, an issue that UTERN and the SCSU continue to grapple with.
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TRANSIT ADVOCACY

TTC Riders is a grassroots organization that advocates for better transit for individuals who use the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). The Students’ Union has been a vocal representative, sharing and advocating on behalf of our members’ issues with transit, including the reality that many students are travelling across multiple transit systems including TTC, Durham Region Transit, York Region Transit, MiWay, and Go Transit.

The Students’ Union sent a large contingent to a rally outside of the office of Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Vijay Thanigasalam, Assistant to the Minister of Transportation, to lobby for more safe, affordable, and reliable transit. We also attended a press conference organized by TTCriders and other GTA-based student unions, where we spoke about issues that UTSC students. The press conference received attention from major Canadian news outlets, including CP24, CityTV, CBC, Global News, and OMNI Television.

The Students’ Union also attended a TTC’s stakeholder consultation about its 2021 Annual Service Plan (the Plan). The stakeholders engaged included representatives of city-wide and area-specific organizations and general public members with interest in transit and service planning. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held online. Community members expressed support for The Plan, raised the need for adequate consultation and communication of any service changes to riders, and highlighted some community members’ concerns for how The Plan would negatively impact some people who use transit.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Ontario Executive Committee Meetings

The SCSU Vice-President External currently serves as the Students’ Unions representative for the Ontario Executive Committee (OEC). The OEC brings together elected representatives from Students’ Unions across Ontario to guide the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFS-Ontario). The Committee meets every other month.

Our representative brings forward issues faced by members here at the University of Toronto-Scarborough Campus in these meetings. In addition to bringing forward issues that speak to our membership, our representative also brings a report back to campus about current issues in post-secondary education and advocacy efforts undertaken by other Students’ Unions in the province. The OEC also serves as an important space for us to compare university and college responses to the pandemic.

This year, the OEC is focused on access to education, including financial barriers to education and the dramatic shift to online learning in response to the pandemic. Another primary concern for the Committee continues to be support for International students - many of which are continuing their studies from their home countries while we all cope with the uncertainty of COVID-19.

The OEC also created the GTA Coalition and the International Student Advocacy Committee. Both of these spaces offer student representatives and volunteers an opportunity to collaborate on issues related to access to education.
GTA COALITION MEETING

The Students’ Union have attended all of the meetings of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Coalition organized by the CFS-Ontario. At these meetings, we had an opportunity to hear updates from other students’ unions about their advocacy and the response to COVID-19 on their campus. The Students’ Union also presented our Education for All webinar series encouraging students from across the GTA to support.

CFS LOBBY WEEK

The VP AUA has done extensive research and campaigning to create a more equitable and accessible post-secondary education system. To establish a holistic educational system, we must address the inequities at all levels of government. The VP AUA, along with fellow executive members, has been attending training sessions and conducting research to prepare for CFS National and Provincial Lobby Week. The VP AUA has done extensive research, lobbying, and overall campaigning to create a more equitable and accessible post-secondary education system. To establish an education system that supports students in a holistic manner, we must address the inequities present in our systems at all levels of government. The VP AUA and President attended training sessions and conducted thorough research to prepare for CFS National and Provincial Lobby Week. During these weeks, VP AUA met with MPs and MPPs to discuss student concerns and present solutions to the challenges that students face day to day, and how we can move forward to support students through a just recovery for all.

FEDERAL SCARBOROUGH CAUCUS PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION

We were invited to the 2021 Federal Scarborough Caucus Pre-Budget Consultation where we created and shared a report to the Federal Scarborough Members of Parliament demanding more federal funding towards improving housing, better transit, and sustainable environmental support. As the elected representative of UTSC students, we have continued to use our platform to speak out and demand your needs, and intend to continue supporting you until the end of our terms.
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WINTER WEEK OF WELCOME

Campus Life hosted ten distinct Winter Week of Welcome events. They are Skincare with Lubaba Gemma, Speed Friending, Starship Jamming!, Speed Portrait with TJ Ho, Lessons from Your Peers, Cooking Show with Lubaba Gemma, Education for All: Jeopardy!, Truth or Dare IG Live: Truth, Speed Friending. UTSC Multiverse!, Truth or Dare IG Live: Dare, UTSC’s Got Talent. It was a great week of celebrations and intriguing fun events that engaged students to participate in student life more and enjoy a great time while staying safe from the comfort of their own homes. For more information, please contact TJ at campuslife@scsu.ca.

ONLINE EVENTS PROMOTION

Campus Life promoted a lot of amazing club events and initiatives on his social media with engaging social media content. Campus Life ran the @scsustudentevents page on Instagram to allow students to access club and DSA events more easily. The page has gotten a lot of traffic and the page served as a virtual notice board for students to find and choose events that they like to participate in. For more information, please contact TJ at campuslife@scsu.ca.

COLLABORATION VIRTUAL CONCERT WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UTSC

Campus Life and President connected with Amnesty International UTSC to make one of the biggest concerts of the year on February 16th during the reading week with international music artist Rewsan Celiker. The event is a great way for students to learn about different cultures and connect with native Turkish musical traditions. On top of that, this event offered a fun chance for students to distress. For more information, please contact TJ at campuslife@scsu.ca.

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTRE

Campus Life planned a collaboration with UTSC International Student Centre to celebrate the Lunar New Year virtually with students that celebrate. The event included watching lion dances across Asia, learning about Asian horoscopes, and learning the mythological story about the origin of the lunar new year. The event celebrated similarities and differences in different Asian cultures that celebrate Lunar New Year, provided students a glimpse into the culture and a sense of belonging. For more information, please contact TJ at campuslife@scsu.ca.

SCSU ODD MAN OUT GAMESHOWS

Campus Life hosted weekly game shows on Facebook Live on Friday nights with UTSC students to have fun, distress while playing some fun social deduction games that are entertaining to watch as well. For more information, please contact TJ at campuslife@scsu.ca.

PRESIDENTS’ FORUM

In order to understand the experiences of various student leaders across UTSC, the SCSU President is hosting a series of forums for presidents of UTSC campus groups. The VP AUA is supporting SCSU President with the Presidential Forum For Departmental Students’ Associations And Academic Clubs to understand the challenges and opportunities that campus groups have experienced throughout the COVID-19 climate.
SCSU BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMMING

SCSU’s Annual Black History Month planning consisted of a series of virtual events. We started the month-long programming with an Opening ceremony on SCSU’s IG Live with El Jones. We talked about Anti-Black racism in colonial institutions like Universities and prisons. If you would like to watch the IG Live it was such a powerful conversation about re-imagining what the future for Black folks looks like and El Jones’ work as a prison abolitionist.

- On February 4th, the Canadian Federation of Students National Black Caucus had a full day of programming called: The Black Student Experience in Canada.
- On February 9th, SCSU hosted our first BK Chat session with two moderators Modele and Chevy where we had an array of topics like athlete activism, don’t touch my hair, politics of Black love and so much more. We had an amazing turnout and were really happy that we created a safe space for Black students to come out and debate and share their opinions on different topics in a fun, light hearted way.
- On February 17th, continuing the IG Live series we had an amazing conversation with Amran Abdi from the Yellow room where we talked about Black Mental Health and wellness and what that looks like in a UofT Undergraduate perspective.
- On February 18th SCSU in collaboration with UTSC’s Black club hub hosted our first ever Black History Month Bash event with food and games.
- On February 22nd in collaboration with Radio FWD, SCSU released our surprise event with everyone’s favorite Youtuber duo: Jae and Trey Richards from 4yall Entertainment. The event was similar to our first BK Chat session with an emphasis on the city of Toronto and the culture we’ve created here.
- Our second last Black History Month event was our Black Experience panel with El Jones, Habon Ali, Yusra Khogali and our amazing moderator Faiza Amin. We talked about activism and how Black women are usually at the forefront demanding for change. Truly a remarkable conversation where we had 70+ students attend and we also got the chance to do a giveaway of a Macbook Pro to assist students with their virtual success.
- The last Black history month event we had was on February 25th, where Radio FWD and SCSU hosted a BHM Virtual Concert with headliners Moel, Clairmont the Second and Dijah SB leading to our main performer: DVSN! It was honestly such a vibe and our MCs for the night really made the event one we will never forget.

SCSU X WOMENS AND TRANS CENTRE PRESENT: MONOLOGUES

In collaboration with the Women and Trans Centre, the Scarborough Campus Students Union hosted the highly anticipated annual Monologues. The Monologues event took place on Thursday, March 11, from 6–9 pm. This event is an opportunity for students to share their talents and creativity in a safe space dedicated to centring women, femmes, and non-binary folks and their voices.

TRAUMA-INFORMED YOGA

A cozy and relaxing session of trauma-informed yoga with instructor Nicole D’Souza took place on January 22, 2021. As part of our consent culture campaign, we strive to provide spaces for students to find community and center their energy in these difficult times.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Each year, the VP AUA spearheads the Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS). This conference highlights the work of undergraduate students, their scholarship, and their contributions to our
communities. This year is the 5th anniversary of URS, with the theme being Intersections Of Recovery: fostering systems, structures, and science that will steer us through the road to recovery and shape a new tomorrow.

The pandemic has brought forward many inequities and challenges that have been present in our world consistently, but have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 climate. With climate change concerns looming in the back of our minds, immense pain and anxiety have rid our communities, but we have come together nonetheless. This past year has shown how we, as humans, organize and join together to support each other within each of our microcosms. Students are often at the forefront of social justice and innovation, and we must continue to create platforms for young leaders to continue doing this work.

**MULTICULTURAL WEEK**

Campus Life planned six separate events for the week of March 22-26th. With the opening event being “Advocacy around the world” which centers around Indigenous voices. The second event is “Racialized Professional Panel” at 5-7 PM. The third event is “Cultural Exchange “Zoom around the world” where students network and learn about different cultures around the world. The fourth event is the “Education for All Panel” on International Students issues. And we will end with a Virtual Concert In the evening. For more information, please contact TJ at campuslife@scsu.ca.

**SEXUAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

Sexual Health Awareness week is a partnership with the sexual Education Centre to foster education and empowers discussions on sex diversity in a comfortable environment. Along with the community coordinator for Consent culture, VP Equity worked on providing diva cups and Sex toys to our members as part of this initiative.
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SENIOR ADMINISTRATION TEAM

The Students’ Union met with the Senior Administrative team to discuss our advocacy priorities, events and services for the year ahead. One of our priorities was to get more information about the University's plan to support student mental health, the campus’ plan for the winter semester and the 2021-2022 school year, and how the University is considering student wellness and remote learning success.

The Students’ Union will be meeting with the Senior Administrative team again in the Winter Semester. For this meeting, the Students’ Union will be preparing a lobby document that can be shared with the membership outlining our priorities in these meetings.

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Students’ Union has two representatives on the Library Advisory Committee each year to support and evaluate services, initiatives, and programs operating within the Library. The Students’ Union is hoping to offer our members more programming through a partnership with the Library in the Winter semester.

ACADEMIC ADVISING & CAREER CENTRE (AA&CC) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Students’ Union sits on the Academic Advising & Career Centre (AA&CC) Advisory Committee with university staff and other student leaders. This committee evaluates current programming and develops future initiatives to support students’ academic goals. Some initiatives that the Academic Advising & Career Centre offers include Get Started, ArriveUTSC, and academic & learning strategy sessions.

The most recent committee meetings have focused on the students’ response to the pandemic, new programming for Indigenous communities on campus, and overall suggestions for improvement in a remote work environment.

UTSC CAMPUS COUNCIL

The University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) Campus Council is a governance body that has been established by and Reports to the Governing Council. It is the highest decision making body on campus. This year the Students’ Union was invited to present our advocacy priorities and provide updates on student-run services and events.

Despite being the official representatives of 14,000 undergraduate students at the university, the Students’ Union does not have an official seat on the Campus Council. This continues to be an area of concern for the Students’ Union, a concern shared by many Students’ Unions across the province fighting for representation in these decision making spaces beyond stand-alone presentations.

OFFICE OF STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND WELLBEING

The Office of Student Affairs has been renamed the Office of Student Experience and Wellbeing. Desmond Pouyat still leads the office as Dean of Student Experience and Wellbeing.
Each year the Students’ Union meets with the Office to introduce our new Executive, our advocacy priorities, upcoming events, and updates from our student-run services. We also have an opportunity to learn about and offer feedback on the Office's priorities for the year. These meetings serve as a valuable opportunity for the Students’ Union to better understand whom we should work with on campus to address student concerns.

COUNCIL ON STUDENT SERVICES

The Students’ Union maintains an active role in the Council on Student Services. The Council on Student Services (CSS) is meant to enhance student life at the university and provide a space for students to oversee the cost and delivery of student services supported by the Student Services Fee. CSS meets six times a year, and meetings are open to the entire UTSC community.

The purpose of CSS is:

1. To make recommendations to the Vice-President and Principal through the Dean of Student Affairs to the Campus Affairs Committee and the Campus Council of the University of Toronto Scarborough as to the kind and level of services offered to students and funded from the “student services fee” and on the direction and the operation of student services at the University of Toronto-Scarborough.
2. To recommend annually to the Dean of Student Affairs, the schedule of compulsory nonacademic incidental fees.
3. To provide a forum for discussion where the University of Toronto Scarborough students’ interests and priorities are represented.

They advise the Governing Council on policy for the following services provided at UTSC:

- Office of Student Affairs
- Student Life
- AccessAbility Enhancement Fund
- Health & Wellness Centre
- Academic Advising & Career Centre
- Athletics & Recreation
- Space Occupied by Student Societies
- CSS Student Enhancement Fund
- Equity and Community Fund
- International Student Centre
- Any other service that may be assigned to the CSS by Governing Council

In detail, they review the annual operating plans, including budgets, for the above services and to recommend levels of funding support for each of the funded services.

As members of CSS, we consider and make recommendations to the Dean of Student Affairs Desmond Pouyat, regarding the allocation of Student Space and procedures which govern such allocation.

The Students’ Union as a member of the committee, receives information on the above services to consider current issues in and among the services and serve as a mechanism of information, communication, and cooperation between the student services and the students of UTSC. This year your President of the Students’ Union, Sarah Abdillahi, is the Chair of CSS for the 2020-2021 academic year.
CAO STUDENT FORUM

The Students’ Union attended the first Chief Administrative Office student forum of the academic year. This meeting offered much insight into the dramatic shifts on campus as a response to the pandemic.

In response to COVID-19, the University has created an Emergency Response team to help coordinate our strategy; Health & Wellness will now be offering Flu Shots to students; the campus will become a Scarborough COVID testing site (in partnership with the Scarborough Health Network).

The testing site will be housed in Highland Hall and will be closed off from the rest of the campus to limit community traffic on campus.

The Students’ Union brought up access to study spaces on campus as a priority issue for our members, highlighting that many students do not know what is available on campus and are having difficulty studying at home.

We brought forward our concern about the Special Constables Program, which brings police officers to campus. The Office is still reluctant to address student concerns about the program. They outlined their response to the calls to action, including offering anti-racist training to campus police and hiring social and crisis workers to respond to emergencies.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY MATTERS

Due to the nature of online learning and the emergency circumstances students were faced with during the Winter 2020 semester, the Students’ Union discussed mitigating academic misconduct and supporting students in safely writing their exams and assignments online. The Students’ Union has been working with Academic Integrity Matters to investigate the best ways to support students and help students navigate academic integrity in the context of remote learning.

Parking Structures & Building Construction

The Students’ Union has attended regular meetings to discuss a parking structure near TPASC and new buildings and structures created at UTSC. The committee discussed concerns such as fire flow, parking garage structures, site design, and landscaping. The Students’ Union brought forward recommendations on accessibility and improving existing building structures at the university.

UTSC ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION MEETING

The Students’ Union attended a meeting with Bill Gough, Katherine Larson and Jamie Donaldson to discuss the possibility of introducing the option for students taking classes during this global pandemic to have the option to CR/NCR in extreme cases. For example, if the student gets COVID-19 and misses most of the course requirements needed to receive a decent grade. However, the UTSC Academic administration was interested in hearing what we had to say, with no confirmation for a safety net like CR/NCR for the students taking classes during the pandemic. We also discussed the course CSCC37, where the professor did not upload any material for their students, leaving students feeling anxious and worried about the future of this course, especially with final exams fast approaching. The UTSC Academic administration reassured us that they know the situation and can’t talk too much about why the professor didn’t upload any content. However, the students were informed by the Dean of the Computer Science Department that they could either CR/NCR the course or withdraw from the course completely and receive a refund.
STUDENT TOWN HALL

The Students’ Union had the opportunity to moderate the third UTSC Student Town Hall. Students had the opportunity to ask questions to the administration during a live Q&A session. The questions ranged from back to school activities, exam procedures, international student issues, and the cost of education considering the pandemic.

DIGITAL ACCESS RESEARCH

In a time where technology and digital access is at the heart of our day-to-day activities, it can be immensely difficult to stay connected without adequate access to digital technologies. Spearheaded by students in the International Development Studies program at UTSC and supervised by fellow faculty members, the SCSU is looking to collaborate with student leaders to understand the gaps in our access to digital technologies.

AA&CC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The VP AUA sits on the current Academic Advising & Career Centre (AA&CC) Advisory Committee amongst staff and other student leaders. In light of changes due to the COVID climate, the AA&CC Advisory Committee visited proposed budget plans for the 2021-2022 academic year. Future initiatives will stay relatively the same, with key initiatives like the Program Pathways tool, Get Hired Conference, and different job seeking initiatives rolling out in the Winter 2021 semester.

MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Along with fellow student leaders, faculty, and administration, the VP AUA attended the January Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the ongoing student mental health crisis at UofT and generate solutions with fellow committee members. With ongoing initiatives such as feedback collection, creating new mindfulness spaces, and revisiting crisis intervention, the VP AUA was able to consult and support the revision of new initiatives that aim to support students and their well-being during their academic journeys.

LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The VP AUA sits on the Library Advisory Committee to discuss initiatives that the UTSC Library hosts each year and support the development of new resources to support students in a remote environment. With the BOD Biological Sciences and fellow committee members, the VP AUA discussed challenges students face with digital knowledge transfer. Notably, the VP AUA discussed online availability of resources, improving navigating and accessibility of the UTSC Library’s online resources, as well as improving outreach to ensure students have access to the resources that the UTSC Library provides.
COUNCIL OF STUDENT SERVICES

The SCSU shared our feedback on all of the budget changes, and we were successful in approving the following:

- 0.79% fee decrease for the KPE Sport and Rec fee ($22.82 for UTSC full time students) since students are not able to get full access to athletic services due to the pandemic.
- 1.95% fee increase for Hart House ($3.23 for UTSC full time students) - When sharing our feedback, we encouraged Hart House to continue the virtual programming they offered this year even after the pandemic so UTSC students are still able to use Hart House’s services without the challenge of distance.
- 1.92% fee increase for Student Life Health & Counselling and Student Services as the university intends to hire more mental health staff to better support students - When sharing our feedback, we encouraged the hiring of more diverse staff to better resonate with students; it is also important to note this fee increase is NOT reflective of UTSC students as UTSC students do not pay into this fee.

DIGITAL ACCESS RESEARCH COLLABORATION

One of the core roots of the CCDS discipline is to critically examine disparities around the globe. We had the opportunity to meet with Professor Leslie Chan and IDS student researchers to collaborate on a digital access initiative they are currently working on. This has been a joint effort with the City of Toronto to better understand the challenges and limitations individuals face with digital access. With the pandemic completely shifting our lives to a digital interface, this change has caused a greater divide for many individuals who lack the resources or means to thrive in a virtual world. We intend to continue supporting students to help alleviate the challenges they face, and we hope this prompts more dialogue on how to address these barriers to ensure everyone has the resources and support to succeed.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENT EQUITY CENSUS ADVISORY BOARD

The SCSU was invited by the Vice Provost’s office to join a newly created University of Toronto Student Equity Census Advisory Board. With the university’s newest equity census available (https://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/u-of-t-student-equity-census/) we were invited to assess the census and provide feedback for steps the university should take moving forward to support students. This census is a massive victory for all of us as equity based data is very critical data that can help shape important decisions moving forward. We also worked closely with the representatives from the UTMSU and both of our Racialized Students’ Collective Coordinators to create a promotional video for the census to encourage more students to fill it out and help shape the future for UofT students.

CAMPUS CURRICULUM REVIEW

On November 19th, December 7th, and December 11th, President attended UTSC’s Working circle addressing anti-Blackness and anti-Indigenous sentiments embedded within our campuses curriculum and how our campus curriculum can better support and reflect the students of UTSC. During the first introductory meeting of the Working Circle everyone introduced themselves and their roles at UTSC as well as our hopes for this curriculum review process. For the second meeting Kelly Crawford, Assistant Director Indigenous Initiatives did a presentation on Indigenous Ways of Knowing. We then received another presentation on Black Knowledges and Connections between Anti-Racism and Intersectional Approaches to EDI-Related Work by Cam Litchmore, the Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Coordinator.
On March 9th, 15th and 19th respectively, we attended UTSC’s Working Sub-circle meetings addressing anti-racist sentiments embedded within our campus curriculum and how our campus curriculum can better support and reflect the students of UTSC. In these meetings we’ve provided updates, learned the difference between a writing circle and a sharing circle and are currently working on a campus-wide survey to get students to share their experiences in the classroom.

Council of Student Services

On November 30th, and December 15th respectively President attended the council on student services financial advisory committee meeting to discuss potential student incidental fee increases student incidental fees for next year. This is because OSEW is looking to hire 4-5 equity hires (Black identifying staff) to support our Black students on campus. A follow up meeting was conducted on December 15th, where current and alumni Black students shared with the committee members why we should support the increases in fees to hire these positions that would sincerely help Black students at UTSC. The official meeting to vote on the increases is set to happen January 11th, 2021.

On January 11th, President met with the other presidents of GSAS, SCRC, and SCAA along with folks from the university to discuss the potential student fee increases to support the office of student experience and wellbeing’s initiative of hiring more Black identifying staff within their different departments. These staff positions will help Black students and other students at UTSC who are having trouble succeeding in post secondary education.
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SERVICES

FOOD CENTRE

The Food Centre is one of the most widely accessed services offered through the Students’ Union. Last year, the service was expanded to serve an average of 81 campus community members per week. Navigating the provision of service amidst the pandemic has proved a difficult task. The Students’ Union has continued to fundraise this year to support the ongoing expansion of this service. This year, we maintained part-time student staff positions in the Centre.

With our on-campus services shut down as a result of the pandemic, the Students’ Union relied on a partnership program with Food Share Toronto. Through this program, members of the Students’ Union are able to access produce boxes at no cost. The produce boxes are delivered to members homes if they live within Toronto, otherwise are available to be picked up at the Student Centre. The program was initially created through a $10,000 donation secured through Food Share allowing the Students’ Union to offer this service at no cost to our members. As the pandemic continues, we have continued to use this service to bring fresh produce to our members.

In the early stages of the pandemic, the Students’ Union organized our own delivery service. Concerned about the safety of staff and students, the program was reorganized in favour of a contactless Grocery Box pick-up service. The first set of grocery boxes were made available for pick-up on December 4, and then available every week for students that place their orders and schedule pick-up in advance.

In December, the SCSU Food Centre staff have successfully participated in the UTSC Annual Fund Drive promotional video and as a result, we have received a generous amount of donation totaling to $10,000.

At this time, the Food Centre is exploring the possibility of setting up an online cooking workshop, an installation of the SCSU very own farm in addition to partnering with United Hearts for Canada.

For more information please contact our coordinators at foodcentre@scsu.ca.

FREE BOOK NETWORK

The Free Book Network is one of SCSU’s five service centres. This service aims to provide students with academic resources by subsidizing the cost of textbooks, subscriptions and software that students will be using in their academic journey. Recently, the Free Book Network launched SCSU’s very first Laptop Program, which supports students with digital tools to navigate their learning in a remote environment. With the need for digital access continuing to grow, the SCSU Free Book Network will stand as a service centre to help students with the digital tools they need.

The Laptop Program has distributed 6 laptops as part of the pilot program this semester and we hope to expand on this service in the near future while seeking external sponsorships and grants to expand this free program.
VOLUNTEER NETWORK PROGRAM

The Students’ Union has been working on revamping the Volunteer Network Program, which is a free SCSU service that connects members with meaningful volunteer opportunities within the GTA to help students connect with employers, develop interpersonal and technical skills, and build their resumes. Through acquiring hours, students can be awarded rewards based on the level they unlock, ranging from Bronze, Silver, Gold and Diamond. The following is a breakdown of each level’s rewards:

- Bronze Level: Certificate of recognition
- Silver Level: Certificate and Reference Letter
- Gold Level: Certificate, Reference Letter, and eligibility to apply for the Exemplary Community Scholarship

With limited safe volunteer opportunities available and understanding that volunteering is a privilege not all students have, we focused on restructuring the VNP by offering more events pertaining to professional development and enhancing skills. With the 3 day VNP Launch event in January, we planned interactive seminars to enable students to learn how to perfect interviews, applications, and learn more about how to get involved on and off campus. In February, we hosted the VNP Virtual Success event to help students learn how to navigate a virtual climate and improve their productivity. Both events were HUGE successes, totalling in over 90 students!

RACIALIZED STUDENTS COLLECTIVE

RSC is both a group and a physical space that serves to provide a safer space for Black, Indigenous and racialized students on Campus. SCSU Racialized student collective coordinators have been hired. VP Equity works with the RSC coordinator on revamping social media pages and planning launching events. The RSC planned a Racialized Professional panel on Monday 22nd, 2021, to discuss the struggles that professionals face to navigate in their field. RSC is also containing the research that has been done last year and is planning an event on Anti-Asian hate crimes.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT BURSARY

This emergency fund was created in place of the textbook grant previously offered by the Students’ Union. It is intended to support members dealing with financial hardship. Applications to this fund are considered on a rolling basis while funds are available. Each member of the Students’ Union is eligible to receive the bursary only once per academic year (between September 2020 and April 2021). Members applying to the Emergency Support Bursary may receive up to $500.

Already we have received 137 applications, distributing money to 116 students amounting to $49,800.50. This year, the Students’ Union made the decision to handle the review process internally rather than relying on the Registrar’s Office, following feedback from members who applied for the textbook grant last year. Members reported not being able to submit their applications, having their applications denied, then waiting a long time to receive the grant. To remove barriers to accessing the funds, we designed an application process that allowed for faster processing times.

For the Winter semester application round, we were able to distribute $25,000.00 for 89 students. The SCSU is currently looking for external sponsorships to continue increasing the pool of funds available as a grant for students in need.
DOLLAR FOR DAYCARE GRANT

This grant is supported by a small student levy. The fund supports student parents with dependent care costs. This year we made the decision to handle the review and application process within the Students’ Union rather than relying on the Registrar’s Office. The fund has seen much more traction this year with three students applying compared to one or no students in the last several years.
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HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN

The Health and Dental plan is a vital service that is provided year after year and this year it was more important than ever. We re-evaluated our opt-out and opt-in processes as consideration to our international student members. The physical SCSU office is currently closed due to COVID-19, therefore all reimbursements will be administered virtually or via cheque.

The Students’ Union continues to work with our broker to make improvements to the plan for future years and is excited to negotiate for an improved plan design for the 2021-2022 academic year.

A small victory our staff was able to achieve this semester is to provide our international members their reimbursements directly through students ACORN accounts.

ON-CAMPUS SERVICES AND VENDORS

Our physical office will continue to be closed for the Winter semester, and services such as lockers will be suspended for the school year. Vendors that have continued to physically operate this Winter semester in the Student Centre include: the Health and Wellness Centre, Dentistry on Campus, and Nasir’s Hot Dog Stand. It was important to these vendors to ensure that students who live and work on campus have options to sustain their needs.

MEMBER SERVICES OFFICE

Our Member Services Staff has been working tirelessly to provide support to students virtually. This year we re-launched our website and included a chat support application to better serve students with inquiries.

Our staff team has also assisted students through our various channels of communication, info@scsu.ca email address, through our live chat function on our website, as well as answering telephone inquiries.

Part-Time Student Positions

The Scarborough Campus Students’ Union works to support our members by providing our members with employment opportunities throughout the year. This year, despite the remote working realities, we have successfully hired and trained students in a range of roles within the SCSU. Some of these positions include, Campaigns and Advocacy Support Staff, Equity Centre Coordinators, Social Media and Graphics Assistant and many more hired positions. The SCSU is planning on continuing employing students in various capacities to work with the SCSU team.
REX’S DEN RESTAURANT

The Scarborough Campus Students’ Union owns and operates the Rex’s Den Restaurant, the only student owned and operated restaurant establishment on UTSC campus. Due to social distancing restrictions at the beginning of the summer semester, the SCSU had to make a decision to close the restaurant. All staff and student part-time employees were supported throughout this transition and we continue to support them in ways that we can.

Making the most of this opportunity that the restaurant is closed for operations, the SCSU is planning a renovation project to the Rex’s Den. In addition to the renovations, a shift from a full-service restaurant to a half-service model is being considered as part of this project. The SCSU introduced a customer feedback survey to members and saw an overwhelming volume of responses from students and UTSC members who gave insightful feedback and suggestions about the restaurant.

In addition to the menu survey, we have successfully launched another survey aimed at collecting student input in regards to naming the re-branded restaurant. We will be providing more information about this project in the following months.
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WEBSITE

This year, the SCSU finally switched website platforms and navigated the transition from a WordPress-themed website to a fully optimized Squarespace website. Our intention has always been to streamline and communicate information as simply and direct as possible to our students but we found that our previous site required constant maintenance that was beyond our means. In using Squarespace, we are no longer patching broken code or focusing on the backend—we’re able to focus on what really matters: our content.

Since we’ve switched over our platform, we have integrated many versatile features. Most notably, we have added Tawk, a Live Chat software, to our website so that students can directly communicate with the Member Services Staff during office hours. We have also begun utilizing Acuity, a scheduling service so that students can book virtual appointments with either the Member Services Staff or our Executive Team’s office hours. Lastly, we have a Freebies page on our website where for the first time ever, the SCSU is offering a monthly Digital Planner for our students at absolutely no cost; the planner is designed by our in-house Graphic Designer and Creative Director and is dropped on a month-to-month basis. Alongside these wonderful additions, we plan on adding more features to our website but will launch these updates in the months to come.

SOCIAL MEDIA

With the rise of COVID-19 and safety concerns around social distancing, there has been an influx in keeping things virtual and digital. This year, the SCSU has made an active effort in our digital presence by increasing our focus in virtual activities and content. As such, we’ve increased our engagement on our social media accounts, especially with the incoming class of 2024.

The SCSU hired its first Social Media and Graphics Assistant (SMGA); this position is overseen by the Creative Director. The SMGA will oversee the SCSU’s social media accounts and will manage our communications with students as well as maintain our brand standards with content. The SMGA key focus is to improve engagement and trust with our membership.
director reports
robert macatangay
director of arts, culture and media studies department

ACMSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On June 9th, the Student association held its annual meeting over Summer Semester. Much of the meeting explored an evaluation of our constitution, as well as newly tailored values statements that mission and value statement to reflect our current team and membership. Furthermore, elections for all the positions, including my ex officio position on the board as an SCSU Director, was held.

ACMSA ORIENTATION: TOGETHER AT A DISTANCE

On September 17th, we held our own orientation for the department to benefit the incoming family members of the ACM department. The event consisted of general networking for the whole student body, simulated tours of AA and associated buildings, as well as various gaming opportunities such as League of Legends, Hax-ball, and Among Us.

ACM OPEN HOUSE

On September 23rd and September 29th, our association held an opportunity for the students to connect to our department’s faculty and other student affiliated groups. Our faculty was also put into a series of burning questions, which we called “hot seats”.

VARIous MENTAL DE-STRESSORS

On October 7th, November 2nd, November 6th, February 27th, and March 3rd, the association held events to help alleviate the hardships of adapting to these unprecedented conditions. For instance, we partnered with Counterpose and Capture to make origami and have photoshoots over Zoom. Furthermore, we decided to reach out to the other campuses and partnered with ISHA from St. George to give opportunities into an alternative means of understanding mental health through meditation.
aimen kashif - director of anthropology department

SUMMER OF 2020

• In this semester I was elected as BOD for anthropology
• Went to different high schools to advocate for anthropology courses offered in University
• Attended a meeting with anthropology department
  • Gave my introduction and discussed ways to engage students
  • Talked about upcoming courses and how to include them for summer semester of 2021
    • Initially created a petition to allow for more courses in summer but could not achieve as students in the department were not interested in this initiative

FALL SEMESTER 2020

• Joined ADSA and created content on Instagram to promote anthropology and the various opportunities in jobs
  • Included giveaway for engagement
• Contacted the Anthropology department and had a meeting
  • Discussed innovative ways for students to engage
  • Different zoom sessions for learning about new courses being offered in summer and other semesters
  • Promoted ADSA events in classes and through professors
• The events I wanted to plan could not take place due to the pandemic
  • Shadowing program could not take place as students had a low attendance through zoom sessions
  • Many alumni did not want to participate in this event, so it was difficult to pursue
  • My goals were to work towards asking professors to talk about their careers and other opportunities through ADSA
• Attended the AGM meeting
• ADSA meetings
  • Every week we post a cool fact about anthropology or different polls for students to engage in

WINTER SEMESTER 2021

• Worked along ADSA to create social events
  • World Anthropology Day
    • Posted about different reasons why anthropology is important to learn about
    • Included giveaways as incentive for students to participate
    • Created videos of ourselves explaining why we chose anthropology and how to reap its benefits
• Created an Anthropology Feedback survey
  • To help students and professors understand the needs of anthropology and how to
    create a friendly and successful environment for students to thrive in
  • Survey ends in second week of April to ensure student get a chance to fill it out
  • Giveaway as incentive as a poll was done and students prefer a survey over zoom events
    with low attendance
  • Results from this giveaway can benefit the next BOD as well as professors to understand
    the struggles of students and what they look forward to in this program
divya dey - director of centre for critical development studies

SUMMER SEMESTER (MAY 2020-AUGUST 2020)

In my duties as a Board of Director for the Centre of Critical Development Studies (CCDS) I used the summer semester as a time of learning and adjustment to the virtual world. For this I participated in the Board of Director Retreat where I learnt about the Robert’s Rules of Order, limitations and liberties of being a board member, how to reach our department, who our DSA’s are and who to contact (which for me was the International Development Studies Student Association- IDSSA) , and just overall training on how to be a board member.

Here we also learnt about the different committees we can participate and be a part of. Depending on the committee some were limited to a certain number of Board of Directors. After learning about the different Committees, we got to pick those that sought our interest. Later I got the opportunity to choose which committee I wanted to be apart; which for me was the SCSU Finance committee. I wanted the opportunity to see the insights of the SCSU budget and provide my wisdom accordingly. Since multiple people wanted this position, I had to present a speech of why I wanted the position/how I was qualified and then was elected into the position by the executives and other Board Members.

Since the Pandemic arose, I used the summer months to reflect on how I would meet my campaign points and tweak them if necessary for the pandemic. I also continuously supported CCDS initiatives (whether through supporting groups such as the IDS Co-op, IDSSA, IDC (International Development Conference) I shared SCSU and IDSSA statements regarding pressing issues. I even attended (and took the initiative to start) an emergency Board Meeting in regards of taking action on an issue regarding sexual assault. I researched resources and helplines which then contributed to the statement of both SCSU and IDSSA. I even helped promote SCSU events such as REFRESH.

I also wrote an introductory message of who I was, which was then posted on the SCSU social media platforms to make students aware of their elected representative.

FALL SEMESTER (SEPTEMBER 2020-DECEMBER 2020)

In September the finance committee held their first meeting and I got to examine the SCSU Budget before it was revealed to the rest of the Board. The Vice President Operations stated the budget and how it was going to be arranged for the year.

I created a timeline of what I wanted to do and asked the IDSSA if there was anything they wanted to collaborate with. They replied that they would like to collaborate with an alumni networking night which would be held in the next semester. They promised me that they would contact me to help in the planning process. I also reached out to Professor Paul Kingston (also the Director of the CCDS) introducing myself of who I am and how I want to get involved. I indicated my plans for the year and asked how I can use my platform to be of service to the Centre. I also indicated that I wanted to help improve the CCDS website to more updated alumni and how to go about starting this process. He then proposed a meeting to discuss my role and further opportunities.

I continued to spread awareness of IDS initiatives by promoting different IDSSA events (such as the Student Led Virtual Town Hall, Study Sessions and Destressor events), some of the IDC and IDS Co-op
events and initiatives (such as Movie Night, Trivia Night and opportunities to join the CCDS curriculum committee). I also informed students of SCSU special dates and initiatives (such as UTSC extending the winter holidays).

I also participated in the UTSC open house for the IDS Co-op program! Here I was answering student questions at the event. I even participated in making a video afterwards for those students who could not attend of my experiences in the program. This video is now uploaded onto different social media handles and used for promotional purposes.

Due to recent events at the time, the board of directors collectively came together to try and implement new changes to the UofT mental health care system.

I also attempted to create office hours for all Board of Directors by reaching out to every elected board member for their availability.

**WINTER SEMESTER (JANUARY 2021- CURRENT)**

At the start of January, I wanted to meet my campaign point of building student relationships with Professors in an informal setting. Hence I started to plan the event “Break the Ice” which was held on February 18. I partnered with the Board of Director for Political Science and we both worked tremendously for this event to be a success. We divided the workload and I was in charge of creating the promotional material and google forms (more external) whereas my partner was focused on creating emails drafts (more internal). We worked together to plan all logistics and worked with our departments to maximize the support from them. In the sign up form we also collected questions so that the professors can prepare answers for some student needs in advance. We both worked hard to promote the event and had a total of 77 registrants. Personally from my end, I used my social media platforms to plug the event. I reached out to IDSSA, SCSU, SCSUstudentclubsandevents, IDC, IDS CO-OP, Marishka (Program Advisor for CCDS and Political Science- who sends mass emails out to students of each department and how to get involved) and I attended an IDS CO-OP first year class to inform them of the event and how to sign up. I even received a special highlight of being from the IDS CO-OP Program of my initiatives and leadership within the department. They (IDS CO-OP) also used this as an opportunity to promote the event. A total of 50 participants ended up attending the event with 12 professors present from both the departments. The event started with an introduction of us Board of Directors, followed by a brief preview of the professors involved, then we split according to programs where in each breakout room the pre recorded questions were being asked and an open discussion forum. The event went off without a hitch and the final results showed that: 100% of students who filled out the form said it was helpful and more than 75% of students who filled out the form said their confidence and comfort levels reaching out to professors and instructors increased.

Following the event I reached out to the work study student in charge of the IDS Newsletter. They then featured my highlight and the Break the Ice Event. We (as in Board of Director for political science and I) sent out exit surveys to students who attended the event. This was done to collect feedback and to determine the raffle winners from the event! In addition we followed up with professors in our respective programs with an exit survey of their own to hear how the event went in their perspective and ways in which we can stay involved in the community. From this I heard back from the Director of CCDS who wants me to participate in a meeting to help make the CCDS into a department and hear my thoughts as a SCSU representative.

In addition, I learnt that there was a CCDS Anti-racism student group. I reached out to the students running it and asked how I can get involved. I then remained constant contact with the individual to get conversations rolling and action happening. I later received an invite for the discussion panel which shall be held in the nearby future.
I also continued to support IDS social media handles by promoting events and other initiatives (such as the IDC conference, study sessions, roundtable discussions, and special guest lectures such as the South-South Cooperation lecture by Chitra Purushotaman). I attended a study session held by the IDSSA to help support their initiatives.

Throughout this semester I also supported other Board of Director initiatives and overall SCSU initiatives such as attending the Health Studies Panel held by the Board of Director for Health Studies, the weekly study sessions by the Board of Director for Political Sciences, Volunteer Network Program events, SCSU Black Experience Panel Discussion, Monologues, The Sustainable Planning Certificate Event held by the Board of Director for Human Geography Studies and more.

As elections rolled around for the next year, as an elected board member, I wanted to spread awareness of what elections are and why they are relevant to students. I then proceeded to share an informative post of SCSU electoral facts. This initiative was appreciated by many students since many students do not understand the role SCSU plays in their university experience/tuition. Many students then proceeded to repost my post to share the information of elections. I also promoted the Credit/No credit petition encouraging students to sign it so that we students voice the importance of seeing the grade prior to credit/ not crediting a particular course. I added the petition and the SCSU website onto my personal linktree so that students can have easy access to information.

Concerning the Farmers Protest in India, when a statement was released by SCSU concerning the issue, I voiced my concern as to why the Board was not notified when a statement like this was being released especially since I was dealing with personal issues about the matter and that many of the Board of Directors are Indian. This resulted in an emergency meeting. I then got a chance to provide any feedback concerning the statement and further learned how statements are posted in SCSU.
dinah samuel - director of historical and cultural studies department

FALL OF 2020

President of HCSSA (Historical and Cultural Studies Student Association)

• Held meetings with faculty rep to update on student activity and plans for the HCSSA. Worked to have active usage of the HCSSA’s social media accounts for further engagement and advertising.

WINTER OF 2021

Choosing your Program Fair Event

• Assisted in the department’s virtual booth to answer questions on the program itself for any interested in entering.
• Trivia Night
• Organized a recreational event for students to socialize and compete for prizes in a historical themed trivia night.

Virtual Campus Visits for Assistant Professor Candidates

• Attended several undergrad meetings for potential Professor candidates to determine fit for the students. Meetings for Assistant Professor for Late Antiquity and/or Early Islam, Digital and Public History, and Black Feminist Histories and Thought.
esma boztas - director of political science department

SUMMER OF 2020

- Ratification as the Director of Political Science for the 2020-21 fiscal year
- Being elected by the Board of Directors to serve on the 2020-21 Policy & By-Law Committee
- Attending the Policy and Bylaws Committee meeting
- I had 3 points when running for the positions. Two of them got automatically implemented when the school turned online.
- My other point was regarding creating a silent room for students of the department on the department’s floor. I contacted the Chair of the department of political science about booking a room on the department floor only for the students of the department to study together - this is to be implemented when school goes back to normal.
- Contacting the department chair regarding concerns of students
- Attending monthly Board meetings to try my best to hold the executives accountable within the limits of my power as a single board director
- Private messaging various students telling them I was the elected bod for political science so they could share any concerns with me.

FALL OF 2020

- Creating a Messenger Group Chat for mainly political science, public policy, and public law students - This chat remains active, and new members are being added even today. It is used to discuss hot topics, ask questions, and create a community
- Because everything is online, I started to host Group Study Sessions twice a week every week to strengthen the sense of community and create an environment of support and motivation for students - The participation in these study sessions remains open, and anyone willing to join can still email me. (After the end of my term, I will maintain offering this service under a club as opposed to the SCSU umbrella)
- Contacting relevant departments regarding concerns received from students and solving them together
- Attending monthly Board meetings to try my best to hold the executives accountable within the limits of my power as a single board director
- Attending relevant events and promoting them to students on social media, including the chat I created

WINTER OF 2021

- The group chat I created continues accepting new members
- Hosting Group Study Sessions twice a week every week continues + Monthly gift cards given to students who participated in the study sessions (draw is randomized)
- Hosting an event called “Break the Ice between Professors and Students” by collaboration with BOD IDS + Giving gift cards to 4 lucky participants (draw is randomized)
- Hosting an event called “Bridge the Gap between Professors and Students” by collaboration with the political science department (TBD - April)
• Attending relevant events and promoting them to students on social media, including the chat I created
• Attending the Policy and Bylaws Committee meeting
• Attending monthly Board meetings to try my best to hold the executives accountable within the limits of my power as a single board director
omer jamal - director of health studies department

Omer was your 2020-2021 Board of Director for health studies. In his term he completed and took part in various events, initiatives, and meetings to help the students of his department achieve a more interactive and accessible health studies experience, despite the online environment. Omer worked with the Health Studies department to represent the voices of the students within health studies. He had various meetings with Dr. Jessica Fields, and Dr. Michelle Silver where he helped advocate for the concerns of the students. In these meetings he discussed exam concerns that were brought up by students, concerns regarding limited course offerings, and other issues students faced during this online university environment.

Omer also worked with his departmental student association (HSSA) throughout the year, by advertising for their events, helping them with funding and any resources they need, and by also collaborating on events and projects. Specifically, Omer and HSSA worked on a website feedback project for UTSC’s DHS website which is now live. The goal of this project was to provide feedback/advice on ways to update the departmental website so that it could be more cohesive, accessible, up to date, easy to access and well-organized for students within the health studies department.

Lastly, Omer managed to successfully host a Health Studies Panel Event in early February. The INSIGHTS panel event was SCSU’s first virtual Health Studies speaker event where students were able to meet and hear from different students and professors within the department. Within this event there were 2 professors, and 3 upper year undergraduate students/ masters students who gave their insights on topics revolving health studies. The goal of the event was to engage the students within the department to view the many possible paths one can take within the Health Studies Field. Overall, Omer felt fortunate to be able to pursue this opportunity as he had a great time serving as your Health Studies BOD. He hopes you have a great rest of the semester, and a great summer ahead.
antonik resurreccion - director of health studies department

INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is Antonik Resurreccion or Anto for short, and I am the Director of Sociology for SCSU. I am a double major in both Political Science and Sociology, and I’m in the last year of my undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto. As I reflect on my experience as a BOD at SCSU, it’s safe to say that it was a rollercoaster with multiple ups and downs throughout this year. Coming in with high expectations, I soon faced a sobering reality that some things I set out to do would be neither feasible nor practical. Nonetheless, I hope that my listed contributions as the Director of Sociology helped and enhanced even at least one sociology student’s experience at UTSC. It has been a privilege and honour to be placed in this position and I wish the upcoming SCSU team nothing but the best.

SUMMER 2020 (MAY-AUGUST)

- As Director of Sociology, I was involved in helping prepare and promote the event titled “Refresh”, which was spearheaded by our VP of Academics. I was in touch with my program advisor to ask that this event be promoted and disseminated throughout those who are in the program of sociology, as this event was apropos in benefitting all students who attended, including those in the sociology program.
- As Director of Sociology, I attended the Students of Sociology’s AGM.
- As Director of Sociology, I was appointed on the Elections Referendum Committee, entrusted with responsibilities entailing duties such as determining the eligibility of all nominated candidates following the By-Laws and Elections Procedures Code (EPC).
- As Director of Sociology, I was in communication with a prominent executive member in the biggest sociology club on campus, Students of Sociology (also known as SOS), to see if there were any messages they desired to be relayed to SCSU utilizing the director of sociology, or if there was anything I could do to help.

FALL 2020 (SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER)

- As Director of Sociology, I would be open to dialogue with other students in the sociology program to hear their ideas and see what I could do to advocate their concerns and desires. This was exemplified as I posted on a UTSC forum, “UTSC Birdcourse” on Facebook, asking what types of sociology classes would sociology students at UTSC want as future potential courses.
- As Director of Sociology, I helped evaluate multiple candidates for potential first-year representatives to be on SCSU due to my responsibilities on the Elections Referendum Committee.
- Furthermore, as a member of the Elections and Referendum Committee (ERC), we were given a task to interview and vet candidates who were vying for the Chief Returning Officer job, also known as the CRO, for the upcoming elections. The ERC proceeded to hire who we thought was the best candidate for the job.
- As Director of Sociology, I attended SCSU’s AGM.
- As the Director of Sociology, I served as the bridge between Students of Sociology (SOS) and SCSU. I relayed the messages to SCSU such as notifying the board that SOS had a plethora of events they had planned for the upcoming winter semester and to be on the lookout for these events.
WINTER 2020 (JANUARY-APRIL)

• As Director of Sociology, I reached out to both the program adviser and department chair to advocate the diversifying of sociology courses on the behalf of sociology students. I proposed the idea of implementing a course such as "sociology of music", which would bolster the diversification of available courses. I received positive feedback and was informed that there are those who have an interest in potentially teaching this course in the future.

• As Director of Sociology, I attended the inaugural event of the Volunteer Network Program, also known as VNP. This 3-day event entailed helping participants by educating them on how to create better applications, sharpening their interview skills, and disclosing how to enhance their portfolio.

• As a member of the ERC, I would discuss and evaluate with the ERC team which online voting platform would be most pertinent for the SCSU election in the winter semester. I, along with the other members of ERC, read over the recommendations for the CRO and DRO and accepted their recommendations.

• As a member of the ERC, I helped review, amend, and adopt the Elections Procedure Code.

• As a member of the ERC, I would meet regularly with the ERC team during the week of the SCSU student election to discuss any potential problems that arose and any concerns that needed to be addressed. I helped assess the hiring of two IT experts in response to a problem that transpired during the election, and I also helped discuss and give my vote on how to proceed with the situation at the time.

• As Director of Sociology, one thing I desired was to advocate for a co-op program for sociology. However, I came to realize that this was a daunting task that was not reasonably attainable. Nonetheless, I still wanted to help sociology students attain some sort of volunteer experience to help bolster their resumes and portfolios. I reached out to a vast amount of sociology students and directed them to the VNP's initiative in hopes they apply for potential volunteering opportunities that would benefit them.
andy mai - director of management department

My name is Andy Mai, director of management. Here is my WGM director report for the past year:

- May 2020: Promoted SCSU’s event in social media and reached out to MESA to introduce myself as the new BOD of management.
- June 2020: Actively answered questions and interacted with management students on Social Medias.
- July 2020: Promoted SCSU’s event on social media and answered student’s questions.
- August 2020: 1. Reached out to first year students from the Green Path system. Posted first year life and academic guidance on Wechat with CUA. 2. Reached out to the management program advisor to plan resourceful events for management students.
- September 2020: Hosted live Q&A session with MESA, provided answers to more than 20 students and introduced SCSU’s services in the session.
- October 2020: In a team with CUA (Chinese Undergraduate Association), we reached out to over 50 students and provided 1 on 1 tutor to answer questions and to give them tips about how to manage first life.
- November 2020: Promoted Mesa’s and AOA’s student events to management students.
- December 2020: 1. Introduced a new networking system “Ten Thousand Coffees” for management students in collaboration with MESA and Ten Thousand Coffees. 2. Created online study space (zoom study rooms) for students with CUA.
- January 2021: Attended Live Competition hosted by management students
- February 2021: Promoted SCSU’s Laptop Program to management students. Answered academic-related questions from 5 students on Instagram.
- March 2021: Promoted SCSU’s online study rooms. Promoted MESA’s casino event and MIBA’s IGNITE event

MY CAMPAIGN GOALS

Promoting management student events and engage students on behalf of SCSU -- DONE

Create virtual study platforms -- DONE

Organize resourceful events for management students -- PLANNING
angie mendis - director of the english department

SUMMER OF 2020

• Update 1: Attended the SCSU Board of Directors Retreat (i.e. learned SCSU by-laws, learned Robert’s Rules of Order)
• Update 2: Attended and participated in all monthly Board of Director meetings
• Update 3: Campaign point achieved— During my campaign, (before COVID-19 related school closures) I hoped to give English students the choice to take courses that are WebOptioned, as at the time, there were zero English courses offered in this format, unlike other disciplines (i.e. psychology). Online English classes have obviously become available since then, and I hope that this option will continue to be available for students, even as normal classes return to being in-person.

FALL OF 2020

• Update 1: conversed with members of the Students of English Literature and Film (English DSA) to discuss implementation of events during the new school year in order to foster a sense of community within the English department, despite transitioning to being fully online (creating a sense of community among English students was also a campaign point of mine)
• Update 2: Attended and participated in all monthly Board of Director meetings
• Update 3: Attended the SCSU AGM (November 2020) and prepared motions to be discussed during the AGM in preparation for it with other BOD members

WINTER OF 2021

• Update 1: Attended and participated in all monthly Board of Director Meetings
• Update 2: Answered the questions of multiple students who reached out to me asking about requirements for being the English Director for next year’s SCSU team (I won’t be running for next year as I’m graduating)
abhimanyu amin - international student director

SUMMER OF 2020

• Update 1: Worked on the formation of a committee called International Students Union for international students to voice their opinions and concerns especially since everything had shifted online with the President and Andy Mai.
• Update 2: Reached out to the international student center (ISC) for volunteering and checked in with them every month.

FALL OF 2020

• Update 1: Attended the call to action for mental health online meeting organized by the student union at the St. George Campus. The purpose was to give students and staff members at UofT a platform to voice their problems and opinions on various mental health issues. Raised concerns of international students on mental health.

WINTER OF 2021

• Update 1: Was a part of the Volunteer Network Program organized by VP external. Reached out to international students to inform them about the importance of volunteering as being part of the community and for resume building.
janvi rautela - director of computer and mathematical sciences department

SUMMER OF 2020

• Update 1 (June 2020): Requested CMS department to look into new CS courses. This involves making a poll on reddit that had 210 votes. The department let me know that they have hired new faculty with expertise in machine learning, and while they cannot offer the suggested courses immediately, they will take my survey into consideration for future course offerings.
• Update 2 (August 2020): Spoke to CMS students regarding what types of clubs and activities they would like to see on campus. I was informed that robotics and the interest of some students, as UTSC did not offer robotics courses or have any associated clubs.
• Update 3 (August 2020): Spoke to the department about a potential mentorship program. However, due to confidentiality I was unable to get a list of students in the program for email purposes. However, through the experience I now know whom to contact in regards to getting information forwarded to CMS students through email.

FALL OF 2020

• Update 1: Regularly spoke with CMS students, especially 1st years, to understand what they wanted to see different in the program (what aspects they did and did not like: ex understanding things like why 1st years were not joining CMS clubs was key)
• Update 2: Kept in contact with the CMS clubs on campus, to let them know I was available if they needed any support, or promotion. I’m always happy to post on my story when clubs need an event shoutout. I attended CMS club events, such as WiCSM’s AMD co-op panel discussion.
• Update 3(December 2020): Started UTSC’s first robotics club with colleagues. We created the constitution, social media, handles, and created a good level of interest in our club. Our club features monthly newsletters and soon will start holding events for members.

WINTER OF 2021

• Update 1: Posted about and attended some very events held by other CMS clubs, such as WiSCM’s web development workshop, and DS3’s day in the life of a data scientist event.
• Update 2: Reached out to other unions like UTMSU, UofTSU, and Arts & Science Students’ Union to see if they had platforms like @scsuevents so that CMS clubs from UTSC could also promote events on the other campus, and in the process students from different campuses can foster friendships.
• Update 3 (February 2020): Bod event: Initially, the goal was to create a collaborative CMS event with all the clubs. The idea was 1st a jeopardy type quiz bowl with prizes for winners. It was difficult to arrange a high level of engagements (due to online learning conflicts). Additionally, we saw it to be a better idea to hold a CMS POSt session with the department chairs, as many students seemed stressed about their chances of getting in the program. The event was very successful; we had up to 90 participants and lots of questions were asked. At the end we held a quick icebreaker session for students to get to know each other. As well, 25 students were drawn to receive a $10 gift card.
shree purohit & zeyad haggag - first year directors

Since the beginning of our term Zeyad and Shree have worked on a couple of initiatives with the help of Sarah. The initiatives that we worked upon so far were:

- First year Calendar
- January 11-15 (done)
- FYD Meeting on Jan 12th
- Attending the Winter WOW Events + Promoting them to First years
- January 18-22
- Jan 19th - follow up meeting to plan for FYAC Meeting
- January 21st if the FYAC Meeting 8-10AM
- January 22nd - FY Academic Advocacy Campaign with Rajean and Lulu (done)
- January 25-29
- Jan 26th FYD Meeting to plan for February
- FY Social Planning
- Focused on creating a mentorship program to bring together students from various programs to bring together first year students and upper year students this initiative was to build a community with greater networking opportunities.
rajveer singh - board of director for the biological sciences

Please refer to the recommendations at the end of the report

SUMMER 2020

COVID-19 Impact

Given the unprecedented circumstances of Covid-19, all plans that were devised for the following year had to be drastically changed. As the Director of Biology, this role required revising methods to transition and implement useful initiatives through online platforms that were more accessible in a remote environment. For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

Department Engagement

To engage the Biological Sciences Department in SCSU activities, the Director for Biological Sciences reached out to the department chair and coordinator for further insight and to continue dialogue and ensure students in the Biological Sciences Department were supported. To build the relationship between the Department and SCSU, the BOD for Biological Sciences introduced himself and established a connection for future Directors. For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

REFRESH

Under the guidance of VP AUA, BOD Biological Sciences worked to construct and execute REFRESH, SCSU’s first ever wellness week. This week aimed to help students cope with the new online environment, as well as introduce them to different mental health and skills workshops. The BOD for Biological Sciences attended the Mindfulness workshop which provided guidance for students to navigate a remote environment in a healthy manner. For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

FALL 2020

SCSU Orientation

The BOD of Biological Sciences took part in the SCSU Orientation, helping first year students transition into the university experience. The BOD Biological Sciences spoke to many first-year students through social media tools and provided consistent advice, reassurance, as well as direction towards any help student may need. Specifically, this included helping Biology students with constructing their university plan and helping them create a strategy and academic plan involving course selection, particularly those the BOD Biological Sciences had previously been enrolled in. For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

BIOSA Meet and Greet

During the month of November, The BOD for Biological Sciences attended BIOSA’s Meet and Greet event where professors and students were given an opportunity to talk, ask questions, and socialize with their department. With the Director present, students were also able to engage with the Director and
discuss SCSU events and initiatives, alongside gaining key advice from an upper year mentor. For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

**Library Advisory Committee**

The Director of Biological Sciences sat on the Library Advisory Committee alongside the VP AUA. Together, the SCSU representatives supported and evaluated different initiatives, services, and programs that are taking place at the UTSC Library. Further, the Director and VP AUA brought forward their own insight pertaining to how the UTSC library could move forward with future initiatives. For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

**WINTER OF 2021**

**Elections Appeals Committee**

The BOD for the Biological Sciences served on the Elections Appeals Committee (EAC) throughout the academic year. On this committee, the Director and other committee members received and evaluated any appeals against any Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC) rulings. Further, the Director helped to ensure the electoral process and elections were conducted fairly and according to the Elections Procedure Code (EPC). For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

**Undergraduate Research Symposium**

Worked with the VP AUA and fellow Directors and Executives to plan and execute the 5th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS). This event gives the opportunity for undergraduate students to showcase some of their research and contributions to the UTSC community whilst also having the ability to potentially win a scholarship. For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

**Transition Document**

Over the course of March and April, the BOD for Biological Sciences will be working on a transition document for the incoming BOD for Biological Sciences to support their transition into their role. In particular, highlighting the unique dynamics of this online world and ensuring they are ready to implement various plans, of which the groundwork and logistics have been laid out. This transition document will support continuity through the Union to best support student members. For more information, please contact Rajveer at biologicalsciences@scsu.ca.

**Recommendations:**

- Working with the incoming VP AUA to arrange meetings with the Biology Department Chair; and
- Communicating student concerns surrounding exam timing, grading, and accommodations to the Biology Department Chair.