

UTSU Executive Priorities

2018-2019

President

Anne Boucher

Student Commons

The Student Commons will be the campus's first ever student centre, run by the UTSU. This has been an ongoing initiative for the past ~10 years, though serious plans only took shape last year. We will be the first executive team to operationally oversee the building upon occupancy in January. As the building is still under renovation, I will work to ensure the plans, programming, and functionings of the building are as successful and student-facing as possible. The first year will really set the tone for the years to come, so I'm set to making the space inviting and sustainably-run.

UTSU Strategic Plan

It's natural that short executive terms translate to short-term planning. One-year terms often mean that long-term thinking and planning isn't a priority. As such, I want to work towards a 3-year strategic plan for the UTSU. I'm not looking to bind future executives to my own priorities, or to an inflexible directive--the goal is to produce a guide that would clarify the UTSU's mandate, values, vision, finances, services, environmental sustainability, and goals. I want the UTSU to remain financially responsible, serviceable, and resourceful to its members, all within and outside the scope of the Student Commons.

SAC Commercial

With the operating of the Student Commons comes a new scale of services and

liabilities. As such, the finances of the UTSU will have to operate differently. I will work on the operations and management of SAC Commercial Services Corporation, to operate under the Canada Business Corporations Act. I want it to benefit students through successful services such as Common Grounds, conference spaces, and more.

Leave the Canadian Federation of Students

This has been on the UTSU's radar for quite some time, and I want this to be the year we finally do it. It's a process, it takes time, and it's not easy. However, it's time the UTSU be able to represent its members' interests. It's time we allow ourselves to concentrate on and produce the services, advocacy work, and programming that *truly* represents our membership. As such, we will support any existing campaign run by our members to leave the organization.

Outreach

In recent years, the UTSU has spent a lot of time on itself. As a result, a gap between the UTSU as an organization and the students it's meant to represent has been created. I want to rebridge this gap through meaningful outreach. As such, I plan on presenting the Outreach Committee with an Outreach Plan Proposal with guidelines and potential outreach initiatives, with the hopes of setting a new tone in the way we approach outreach moving forward.

Huron Pedestrianization

Though some of us may drive, bike, or use transit, the reality is that once on campus, we walk. It's therefore important that our campus be as safe and accessible for pedestrians as possible. Huron Street, from Harbord to Russell, clearly needs some work. It's unsafe, and prioritizes vehicle traffic over pedestrian traffic. This has been an ongoing project for me, and I hope to complete it successfully this term. My goal is to include parts of Huron Street into the university's Landmark Project.

Transit Tax Credit

As many of you know, the federal government brought an end to the transit tax

credit for all Canadians. This had significant impacts on post-secondary students, who relied on the tax credit to afford commuting to class. I will work to lobby the federal government to re-establish the tax credit for post-secondary students.

Student Residence Space

It's no secret that we are lacking residence space on our campus. Though students here have a First Year guarantee, staying in residence in your second year of studies or higher is difficult as space is limited. The university is working to build new residence spaces, but has experienced some pushback from surrounding neighbourhood associations, where the idea of seeing more students is unfortunately unwelcome. It's clear the relationship between students, the university, and these neighbourhoods must be remediated if we want to see new residences being built, such as the Spadina-Sussex residence. With Yuli, we will work to remediate these relationships. Our goal for the year is to see the relationship grow enough for the Spadina-Sussex residence to be built.

Topics Series

There is a wealth of different conversations going on on our campus. However, there is a growing aversion to differing opinions and values. In order to truly progress as a society, I believe we must all make an effort to hear and listen to opposing views, helping us understand our own views and why others may hold differently. The idea is not to host overly controversial speakers or topics, but to facilitate some conversations that may see a diversity of opinions e.g. climate change, cannabis legalization, privatization, etc.

Club & Student Society Summits

While the UTSU isn't the be-all end-all of student activity on campus, we *are* in the position to bring different groups together. Working with Yolanda on clubs summits, and with Joshua & Yasmine on student society summits, I want to bring these groups together to facilitate conversation between everyone--there's a lot of value in that.

Peers with Ears

Last year, I launched a pilot for a mental health-focused mentorship program. We received great feedback from both the mentees and mentors who participated, and I will work toward making the program an official service offered by the UTSU moving forward.

LEAF certification - Common Grounds

Common Grounds, the Student Commons cafe, has the potential to be environmentally sustainable or environmentally harmful, depending on how it operates. I want to work toward LEAF certification for the cafe, and ensure it runs sustainably now and in the future.

Sustainable Events Guide

Though the UTSU has updated its Sustainability Policy, one missing section concerns the UTSU's own events. As such, I want to work on incorporating this into our policy, while also creating a Sustainable Events Guide both as a resource for the UTSU and other groups in the future.

Vice-President, Operations

Tyler Biswurm

Rebuild Student Aid

There are many problems with the UTSU's current student aid services. First, the UTSU grossly underspends on student aid, has done an incredibly poor job of promoting its funding opportunities. Only very few students on campus are aware of the bursaries and grants offered, and it is typically repeat applications by these individuals that consume the aid given out each year. Better awareness is a key objective for the program.

In addition, the UTSU's financial aid program only covers a select few different types of need. Daycare fees, textbook fees, exam deferral fees, and exceptional academic fees comprise a rather small minority of the kinds of costs that students face. The UTSU also employs a subpar application process. Externally, it discourages interested students by its seemingly onerous requirements. The application process should be reformed to make it easier for students to apply, and more reliable for adjudicators to determine, compare, and satisfy financial need.

I want to elevate the UTSU's budgetary allocations to student aid, as well as raise or even eliminate the \$100 cap on individual awards. I want to spread awareness of our aid programs by advertising their availability over social media, by communication to divisional registrars, and by partnership with other hubs in the student community. I want to replace our existing application process with a well-thought out system that incorporates best practices in the field; this entails collaboration with relevant partners in the university, and also with student unions across the country.

Generating a Public-Facing budget

I intend to work with a web developer to implement a web interface for the publication of the UTSU's budget. Its purposes would be to force accountability on the part of the UTSU, and to lend students the tools necessary to effectively engage with and critique the financial decisions made by the organization. This already

happens -- but by providing more information, this new format is meant to convert a mostly unproductive conversation into a productive one.

Tackling the Student Commons

The Student Commons is going to completely change the way the UTSU functions. We have a vision for an inclusive, collaborative, community-driven, and vibrant space for student life. There are a million challenges to take on under these headings, many of which I expect will only present themselves after we move in at the end of fall. My job, and my priority, is to make sure operations run as smoothly as possible. Specific challenges: a well-functioning cafe, a well-thought-out and self-sufficient booking system, and consistent programming in our spaces.

Allocate 50% of Student Commons HR Costs to Student Jobs

With the opening of the Student Commons, the UTSU will see a drastic increase in human resources costs. We see this burden as a resource in itself. While some of the jobs introduced by the building will be specialized and high-skill, many will demand qualifications consistent with those of students. The UTSU is in a unique position to offer opportunities to these students that they wouldn't otherwise have--jobs that provide a means of support for their financial needs, and that integrate well with their academic lives. We'll make sure that when filling new jobs in the Student Commons, the UTSU prioritizes its own members.

Internal Finance Policy

I want to work with the rest of the executive and UTSU staff to improve and formalize the "back end" of the UTSU's finance processes. This means changing our accounting practices and making adjustments to how the budget is planned internally. I think this is important for the long-term success of the organization, and averts many existing opportunities for financial mismanagement.

Projects/Initiative Funding

I want to change how our initiative funding works at the UTSU. As of now, the UTSU's Student Initiative Fund sees little use, and what little of that it has, is usually disbursed to clubs seeking to cover unplanned expenses. I am seeking partners around the university (faculty, student societies, etc.) to collaborate with in funding individual student initiatives. These partnerships should ideally give us more funds to work with, and also greater visibility for the available opportunities.

Vice-President, University Affairs

Joshua Grondin

Academic Forgiveness

Deadlines to CR/NCR, drop, and LWD courses vary across faculties, while some divisions do not even provide these options to their students. For students who are granted the option, these deadlines fall well before the academic term ends, allowing ample time for things to go wrong that negatively impact our studies. As the current deadlines stand, students are forced to either: a) give up on courses in fear that their GPA will suffer, b) knowingly avoid courses that are notoriously difficult, or c) fulfill the minimum requirements needed to pass the course.

I'll work with divisional societies to lobby various faculties to expand their CR/NCR and drop dates to the last day of class, as well as the option to LWD courses upon the release of final marks. Ideally, this will incentivize students to take risks with courses, put forth effort until the end of the semester, and will not penalize them for courses that do not accurately reflect their ability and interests.

Work-Study Reform

Work-study students currently cannot work more than 200 hours during the Fall/Winter term, and not more than 100 hours during the summer term. This limit makes it difficult for students to sustain themselves on work-study jobs alone, but these jobs provide meaningful, valuable opportunities that benefit both students and the administration.

I'll lobby the university to remove this limit on the number of hours students can work, while increasing the period of employment to the end of the term (for the fall/winter session, the current employment period is September-February). Additionally, I will work with central administration to create an online portal for work-study students to log their hours. This will allow students to log hours without having to be physically present on campus, and will improve documentation of hours worked.

“How to” Campaign

In the winter term, I will run a week-long campaign teaching students how to: get their work published in journals, get PR/citizenship/visas, apply to graduate school, choose a program of study, and get involved on campus. Each of these campaigns will include a number of different aspects; some topics may be covered exclusively

via social media, while others may involve panel discussions or lunch-and-learn meetings.

Health and Wellness Reform

Health and Wellness has undergone a series of improvements since 2015 that have made it more accessible for students (such as the elimination of missed appointment fees and the transfer to a better online system for booking). The fundamental problem plaguing the service is the overwhelming lack of funding amidst a mental-health epidemic on university campuses. This can lead to extensive wait-times and mishandling of cases.

I want to continue lobbying for improved funding and service, specifically to extend daily hours to be more accessible for students in professional faculties or on PEY/co-op. Additionally, Health and Wellness is intended to be a service for short-term care. I hope to work with the administration to establish clearly outlined exit policies for students being discharged from services, to ensure that ongoing support can be provided either internally or externally.

Accessibility Services Reform

Accessibility Services are used by a large percentage of students on our campus to be provided with various academic accommodations. I want to incentivize student note-takers through the provision of bonus marks or subsidies, and lobby the administration to employ paid emergency note-takers for classes in which volunteers do not engage.

Further, I will continue the “End the Laptop Ban” campaign through various materials, and by meeting with different students and departments that are affected by the ban. The goal of this campaign is to ensure that education can remain accessible for students relying on technology for their studies.

Finally, I want to work with Accessibility Services and registrars to change the Verification of Illness process. I want to revise the current form to clarify that students can obtain VOI retroactively, while removing the categorized system of severity. Professors currently have the discretion to accept VOI forms if presented during the course of the term, meaning that even with a VOI, you still might not receive accommodations. I want to work with the registrars to act as a third-party to obtain these VOI submissions and relay the result to professors when necessary.

Free Menstrual Product Expansion

The cost of menstrual products places an unfair burden on our students, but these products are often essential for personal hygiene. Many women’s washrooms

currently sell pads and tampons for 25 cents, but these are not available in every washroom and the cost remains an issue for such an essential product.

I want to find a corporate sponsor (Tampax, Playtex, etc) to donate pads and tampons for this service, while working with central administration to gain access to the containers already installed. Ideally, central administration could help us to install these containers in gender neutral and gender specific washroom on campus.

Mandated Leave Policy

This policy has played a major role in the VPUA portfolio over the past year. This policy is a more specific version of Section D-2 in the Student Code of Conduct, which authorizes the University to mandate a leave of absence for students that pose a significant risk of harm to themselves or others. This policy has undergone various drafts and consultations, but it has yet to be approved by Governing Council. While the passing of this policy is nearly inevitable, I plan to work with administration to ensure it's implemented in the fairest and safest way for students. I want to work with the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students, to ensure that medical and legal representation can be provided to the student whenever requested. I further want to ensure that any affected students would have continued access to university resources, including Health and Wellness, athletic facilities, the career centre, and the library system.

Online Petitions and Voting Access

Student societies and clubs often face barriers when trying to engage their students. There have been consistent problems regarding referenda and petitions for different student groups and societies, sometimes allowing very few students to make important decisions on levies, while at other times having extensive requirements that are nearly impossible to meet.

U of T currently has an online system where student societies can hold online elections. I want to expand this portal to allow student clubs to use the software as well for their elections, particularly for clubs with large membership lists and which are broad in scope. Further, I want to work closely with the Vice-Provost's office to create an online form that allows students to sign petitions electronically. I envision this as a UTOR-ID based system, where students could add their name to meet petition requirements.

Peers with Ears Mental Health Mentorship Program

The Peers with Ears Program was launched as a pilot-version in the winter semester of 2018. This program matched students based on their experience with mental health, to provide additional support to struggling students. This program acted as a complement to professional services, and had roughly 20 participants.

I want to continue and expand this program in the upcoming year by fostering stronger collaboration with Health and Wellness and Student Life. I hope to launch applications in September and match students in a way that ensures confidentiality, safety, and comfort.

Alumni Donation Program

The University of Toronto has an extensive network of alumni that often seek to donate in ways that directly benefit students. Currently, the university and its various divisions rely on U of T telefund to solicit donations. Any money currently designated to students is often allocated to the Department of Student Life, rather than to student groups.

I will work with the Donations Management division of the Alumni Department to add UTSU to this portal, and try to have callers solicit donations on our behalf. This will be in addition to online advertisements for one-time and recurring donors on the UTSU website and social media pages. All funds generated from this program would have exclusive purpose such as student aid, the Food Bank, UTSU bursaries, and more.

Emergency Housing Program

It is dangerous for students to be forced to live with abusers, whether it's in residence, with roommates, partners, or families. Ideally this is not a problem that is dealt with often, but it's crucial for back-up plans to be in place to provide students with a safe place to sleep if they are facing safety concerns.

I want to lobby the college residences (through their respective administrative directors), to reserve at least one room in residence for students in need. Admittance to these rooms would be done through the college registrars, or by the UTSU on behalf of the student.

Waitlist Caps

There currently are not any caps placed on waitlists for course enrolment. This means that students can continue to join waitlists without any reasonable chance of being admitted to the course. However, these extensive waitlists demonstrate significant interest in a course - something that ought to be accommodated by the department overseeing it. I want to work with faculties and their corresponding student representatives to automatically extend course enrolment when the waitlist exceeds a certain percentage of seats available in the course. This may require room changes, but I imagine that rooms that need to be increased in size could be offset by rooms that could be decreased.

Vice-President, External Affairs

Yuli Liu

International Students' Advocacy

According to the University of Toronto Planning and Budget Office, the overall international enrolment is projected to increase to 19.5% of the entire student population by 2020-21. Whether in local communities or within our campus, it is important to raise awareness for international student groups as the population continues to increase. I have worked with many groups of international students during my past three years in campus and I will share my experiences to build a solid and realistic plan. I am confident to present my strategy through working step-by-step to strengthen bonds in the best interest of our student body.

An International Students Week at the beginning of the school year will be the best opportunity to provide help to educate international students on knowing their rights, help newcomers to engage in smooth transitions to Canada, and create opportunities and share resources that benefit both international and domestic students

Introducing UTSU to Chinese student groups through WeChat (known as the "super app" with over one billion monthly active users in China) will allow for collaborations with groups and individuals within and outside of the university, finding new solutions to lower international students' tuition, creating tighter bonds between the local and international communities, and introducing UTSU to Chinese student groups.

Tuition Advocacy

The government of Ontario introduced the new Ontario Student Assistance Program for students from low income households to receive a grant to cover the average cost of college or university tuition. This new adjustment indicates that previous tuition advocacy is effective and we should continue to strive for more. Although help is offered to low income households, the increasing amount of tuition is a general concern for all.

I will lobby the government and introduce the concept of tuition caps per cohort (fixed tuition fees from a student's first year until they graduate). This strategy stables tuition increase within the affordable range, while allowing students to have accurate expectations of their finances.

International student tuition ranged from \$41,920 to \$47,020 in year 2016-17, which is 4-6 times higher than domestic students' tuition fees. The university stays sanguine about relying on international students' tuition as a large portion of income.

Currently Ontario possesses 40% of international students across Canada. As Canada becomes welcoming to international students, competitions between universities' tuitions will soon rise. With the city's high cost of living, housing concerns, and competitive job opportunities, University of Toronto will become less attractive to international students seeking for immigration. It is time to think in the long run.

A reasonable approach to the government as a first step in lowering the costly tuition may be lobbying for an international students' tuition cap.

City Development and Student Housing

The Ontario government has developed 20,000 new housing units in Toronto for development, funded for repairs to affordable rental units, and guidelines for rent control to private rental units. The federal, provincial, and municipal governments all participate in the aiming for better housing, though I will concentrate my advocacy works towards the municipal level since they provide 2/3 of the funding in Ontario's affordable housing.

With the recent launch of Canada's first ever National Housing Strategy, supplying a budget of \$40-billion in a 10-year plan, I suggest in taking on this opportunity to advocate to draw attention to affordable student housing. I have written a submission to the Human Rights-Based Approach to Housing Team in consultations as a student representative.

As students, we make up a large population in the city, but often find our housing needs overlooked compared to the needs of other residential groups in the community. I will attend the Community Liaison Committee meetings and firmly speak to make sure students' rights are considered and being guaranteed during the process of City Development. I also see more opportunities in setting up meetings with candidates participating in the fall municipal election to increase our opportunities in addressing the issue.

Election

Votes are important. All topics I have addressed above cannot be achieved without intentions and enthusiasms by every UofT students towards our community. We're expecting two upcoming elections this year: provincial election in June, and the municipal election in October. I plan to set up meetings with candidates from all parties, collaborate with the Democratic Working Group at UofT and other student groups on campus to encourage votes from students. We will be presenting a live stream on social media to answer questions regarding the election, set up booths, and organizing a candidates debate to make sure we have all voices together.

Canadian Federation of Students

Since UTSU is a member of this organization, I will be attending the CFS Executive Committee Meetings this year and all General Meetings as the representative of local 98.

I received questions from many students regarding on the availability of online voting. Unfortunately, students can only vote for CFS in person and I question if this method truly reflected the decision of our entire student body to join the organization. It is evident that the lack of convenience is a barrier in hearing all students' voices. I will commit myself to strive for a chance in making sure all students are accessible to vote online if there is a referendum.

Know Your Rights

Unfair treatments often occur when students have little knowledge of what their rights are, how to react, and where to seek assistance. It is necessary to gather the latest concerns, find solutions, and educate students on knowing what their rights are. We may promote through deliverables, events during September and throughout the year, and collaborations with groups on campus. Topics include but are not limited to:

Taxes: Student Tax Tips, Money Saving Tips, Tax Deduction Qualifications, International Student Tax, Student Debt, and Tax Calculator

Toronto Housing: Tenants, condo purchase, etc., Student Housing Rent, Tenancy Rights, Student Housing Grant

International Students: Rights in Canada on Student Visa

Vice-President, Equity

Ammara Wasim

Equity Education on Campus:

- Revamp Equity 101 materials from last year and increase the marketing and promotion of this campaign
- Have events such as teach ins and Equity trainings throughout the school year
- Work to provide educational programming and events throughout the year
- Work towards creating a healthy relationship with marginalized student groups on campus
- Consult with the Equity Collectives
- Increase Equity Training on Campus
 - i. Get Certified for Equity Trainings

2. Mandatory Sexual Violence Training:

- Work with the sexual violence prevention center to enhance and implement a required university wide training
- Work with the Vice Provost's office (Meredith Strachaen, Sandy Welsh, Terry McQuaide) revisiting the UofT sexual violence policy
- Improve the OurTurn "C Grade" that UofT currently has
- Promote U4Consent online

3. Increasing Trans Positive and Women's Only Gym

Spaces/Hours:

- Work with KPE, Hart House, AC and Goldring to distribute surveys and collect data on the need for these spaces
- Reach out to LGBTQ+OUT, cultural groups, sports clubs, teams and associations on campus to gain support and valuable insights into these issues

4. Pass the Mic Campaign:

- Create arts based programming that tackles equity based issues such as: racial discrimination, mental health and wellness, islamophobia, anti blackness, cultural appropriation etc..)
- Options are between:
 - i. Film Festival
 - ii. Arts Festival
 - iii. Drama Production
 - iv. Cultural Fashion Show

5. Equity Audit for Campus Services:

- Work to create a database on the needs of campus services, including but not limited to Accessibility Services, ULife, SGDO, SBA, ARCCDO
- Collaborate and form connections with services to understand their own needs so that they may serve students in a better way

TIMELINED:

6. UTSU X MSA Annual Iftar (May)

- Work with various Muslim Student Associations on campus to celebrate the month of Ramadan.

7. Pride 2018 (June)

- This year as part of the UTSU's Pride festivities, we are hosting three main events. Our first one will be the online social media campaign for #displayyourpride, our second one is a commemorative event held for the remembrance of the Church St. murders. The third event is the UTSU Pride picnic on the day of the parade.
- We will also be collaboration with various student groups and societies around campus to aid them with their programming.

8. International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November)

- Create a social media campaign

9. International Women's Day (January)

- Provide an educational Event and a networking space for women on the day of

10. Xpression Against Oppression Week (Jan/Feb)

- eXpression against Oppression is run as a yearly campaign
- Provide a space for Keynotes and create workshops that will tackle

issues that are relevant to the the lived experiences of marginalized students on campus

11. Black History Month (February)

- Work with student groups to see how the UTSU can support the Black student community
- Support specific events during the month

12. Islam Awareness Week (March)

- Work with student groups to see how the UTSU can support the Muslim student community
- Support specific events during the month

13. International Day to Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March)

- Work with ARCDO
- Provide an educational Event and a networking space for racialized individuals

Vice-President, Student Life

Yolanda Alfaro

Improve Club Executive Training

As it stands, Club Executives are required to attend Club Executive training sessions in order to access UTSU funding. Training sessions were revamped this past year to move away from an absorbent, self-serving model to a condensed version, however there are always improvements to be made when big changes to programming are made.

I want to revisit existing CE training. By revisiting CE training, we will be able to gather more feedback from clubs to see what changes worked and were beneficial, and what could have been kept/added. From there, I will work to include their perspectives into the UTSU's new modules.

Revamp Club Summits

In theory, Club Summits should be an opportunity for club executives and members to learn more about the resources the UTSU provides to them, and to learn more about club operations from their fellow clubs. They should also provide an opportunity to discuss larger topics on campus facing clubs and student groups. I will work to organize them in a way that touches on all of these topics, making them as resourceful to clubs as possible.

Introduce Online Voting Option for Clubs

Introducing online voting systems for club and campus group use will help them to operate in a more open and accessible manner. Most, if not all, student societies are required to have online voting so that voting can be accessible to all members. The OVPS is also in the midst of launching a website with the purpose of listing all student elections with relevant links and navigation tools. The goal is to increase transparency and accessibility for club elections, while hopefully increasing student engagement. I will consult with ASSU and the Office of Student Life to assess current structures, and present a proposal to the Office of the Vice Provost, Students with the goal of implementing the service.

Re-Introduce Clubs Resource Guide

The purpose of the Clubs Resource Guide is to serve as a resource for clubs to complement the information distributed at Club Executive Training. 2014-2015 was the last year the guide was disseminated, which was also a time where Club Executive Training was a day long, tiring, over-saturated session. While it will not contain any information regarding UTSU governance (because this is not the point of the guide), and will focus on resources for clubs. A secondary goal will be to produce 1 per recognized club and have an online version as well.

Reform Clubs Policy

Traditionally, the club funding level system has always been very UTSU-centric and self-serving, rather than focusing on the clubs, their needs and merit. In the past, clubs were required to attend X amount of commissions and attend a specific few meetings in order to gradually move up the level system, for example. By creating new criteria that focuses on club events, constituencies, operations and more, funding can better reflect club efforts, and not how many UTSU events they attend. Reforms have been made this past year that will allow clubs to access more funding sooner, however more detailed goals and guidelines can be added to make it easier for clubs to know what to strive for. I will consult with clubs regarding the criteria for each level to gauge how these levels truly reflect the operations of clubs, and will present a draft to our Clubs Committee to gain more feedback before a final version for approval.

Vice-President, Professional Faculties

Yasmine El Sanyoura

Professional Faculty Career Development Services

Professional faculties provide students with an education that has a seemingly more predetermined career path. We plan to provide career development resources that aim to help all professional faculty students -- regardless of their specific faculty or their confidence in their career trajectory. We are planning a series of events to provide services like free headshots, interview prep toolkits, and resume editing services over the course of a week. We want to emphasize that these services and resources will be tailored to the needs of the various professional faculties, following consultation with the appropriate professionals and student societies. Providing professional faculty students with tailored career development resources like these can help expand their career opportunities and offer a source of guidance to students that seek it.

Ensure Second-Entry Professional Faculty Student Access to UofT Facilities

The UTSU represents ten professional faculties, five of which are for second entry programs. In addition to having different admission requirements from first entry program students, second entry program students also have academic sessions that frequently don't align with the undergraduate Arts and Sciences calendar the way that other faculty calendars usually do. This has the consequence that U of T facilities and access systems tailored to undergraduate students have significant gaps in their availability to second entry program students, leaving them unable to fully benefit from facilities they have paid for. The past team worked on finding solutions to this problem through agreements with Hart House. We plan to increase efforts and expand to other facilities on campus to ensure that second entry professional faculty students have regular access to the facilities and services they pay for, throughout the entirety of their academic sessions.

Mental Health in ProFacs Part 1: Campaign -- Create Mental Health Campaigns Targeting the Stigma in Professional Faculties

Students in professional faculties are assigned rigorous class schedules, work under demanding expectations, and in some cases shoulder the burden of fitting into their program's narrow career future. All of these have direct impacts on students' mental

health, as well as their ability and availability to take advantage of Health & Wellness services at U of T.

Professional faculties often project the narrative that their programs are a step in the right direction towards fulfilling careers in very specific professional fields. However, this narrative of linear career paths is often *not* the reality of professional faculty students, and thus can lead to added strain on professional faculty students' mental health. We plan to launch a campaign targeting the stigma of linear and bureaucratic career models, and show students pursuing professional degrees that nonlinear career models are also routes to success. In doing so, we hope that this campaign alleviates the mental strain this has on students and shows students that they are not helpless if they do not conform to their fields' predetermined career development models.

Mental Health in ProFacs Part 2: Lobby -- Conduct a ProFac Mental Health Audit and Lobby Accordingly

Students in professional faculties are assigned rigorous class schedules, work under demanding expectations, and in some cases shoulder the burden of fitting into their program's narrow career future. All of these have direct impacts on students' mental health, as well as their ability and availability to take advantage of Health & Wellness services at U of T.

We plan to survey professional faculty students about their experiences in these programs. By focusing on students, their needs, and their experiences, we can create a solid foundation for understanding the realities of students' mental health concerns as they relate to the various faculties. We plan to work with student societies and their related admin to maximize our outreach and benefit from any information they may already be collecting. We then plan to use this report and present the results to relevant elements of administration, and to lobby for embedded mental health services that are specialized to the needs of professional faculty students.

Lobby to count PEY and Co-op towards the Canadian Experience Class Immigration Program

International students wishing to gain permanent residency in Canada must do so by applying through the Canadian Experience Class immigration program. However, students are only eligible for this program with at least 1 year of skilled work experience, *after* graduation. Most importantly, any work experience while you are a full-time student, including co-ops and PEY, does not count toward the program. While the program seems like it's designed to help those with experience working and living in Canada to gain a permanent residency, the restrictions on co-op and

similar work for full-time students undermine the legitimacy of that work experience.

We plan to lobby the government to allow skilled work done by full-time students doing PEY and co-op programs to count for the Canadian Experience Class program, and help international students who have started a new chapter of their lives in Canada continue that chapter if they so choose.

Keep the UTSU Accessible to Professional Faculty Students by Visiting Faculties for Informative Sessions and Support

Over the past few years, outreach to professional faculties has proved to be better when the UTSU goes to the students, and not when we wait for the students to come to us. We plan to keep an open and accessible relationship with students in professional faculties by coordinating with directors and student societies to hold informative sessions and give students support, such as with semesterly Lunch and Learns and UTSU's Got You during exams. If you would like us to visit your faculty, please don't hesitate to contact me, and we can coordinate something together!

Create a Professional Faculty Student Rights Handbook

Professional programs provide students with learning models that are not limited to the conventional lecture hall. Instead, students learn through a variety of other situations and experiences, from Professional Experience Year (PEY) programs to clinicals to studios. Considering these various models, we recognize that student rights differ from one situation to another, and that it is our responsibility to help students be aware of their rights throughout the entirety of their education. We plan to work with student societies and directors to compile a handbook of student rights and tips for navigating the professional faculty experience beyond the confines of the lecture hall.