
2018-2019

YOUR USC EXECUTIVE YEAR IN REVIEW



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Your 2018-2019

Executive Team



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Communications Officer



Carina Gabriele
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Officer



Mitch Pratt
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HELLO STUDENTS!

My name is Mitch Pratt, and I am your University Students' Council President for the 2018/2019 year. Our executive has had an exciting, yet tumultuous year. As we look to wrap our term as your USC executives, we thought it was essential to let students know what we've been up to. I'm excited to see what the future holds for the USC, and the incoming executive team. Like any well-seasoned university student, we work well under pressure! As always, we're here to listen, please reach out!

Below you will find a review of projects outlined by each member of our executive. Many of the advocacy goals as laid out in this year end report are ongoing as there is always work to be done to enhance the Western student experience. It should also be noted that although we were elected on these platform points, and have worked hard on them since, we continue to advocate on more than just these topics and have achieved success in many other endeavours.

Outside of our platform, it's been a busy year! From the Free Menstrual Product Pilot Project, the Women in House Program, to being dynamic in the face of the Student Choice Initiative, by implementing Executive Restructuring to the changing needs of students, we've seen unprecedented student engagement, and we're excited to hand off some of these projects to the incoming executive.



- ✓ Hosted the largest university concert in Canada: PurpleFest 2018
- ✓ Advocated to pilot Course Waitlists for summer classes
- ✓ Advocated to change the medical note policy to make seeking accommodations easier
- ✓ Advocated for LTC Express Bus Routes for 2019/2020
- ✓ Advocated for a permanent Fall Reading Week with improved timing
- ✓ Increased Crisis Counselling during Orientation Week & winter exam season
- ✓ Advocated for Women's Only Hours at the Western Student Recreation Centre
- ✓ Secured a partnership with Western for \$800,000 in annual mental health funding
- ✓ Advocated for a \$2M investment in campus lighting
- ✓ Launched Free Menstrual Product Pilot Project throughout the UCC
- ✓ Broke the World Record for STI tests in 12 hours: over 1300!
- ✓ Restructured the USC Executive to increase student engagement
- ✓ Hosted USC "Women in House" for 25 women-identifying students at Parliament Hill
- ✓ Created an Accessibility and Inclusivity Checklist for USC programs and services
- ✓ Created a new USC Indigenous Relations Coordinator
- ✓ Facilitated #AskHer campaign to encourage women-identifying students to seek elected leadership
- ✓ Reformed clubs training to better support the needs of USC clubs
- ✓ Completed a full scale revamp of the Clubs governance structure, including a restructuring, policy revamp, and a Clubs Bill of Rights
- ✓ Advocated to repeal legislation that would have made student bus passes void
- ✓ Advocated for students to be able to use their preferred/chosen names for certain documents on campus
- ✓ Advocated for a campus framework on Gender-Based Violence
- ✓ Obtained charitable status for the USC Foundation
- ✓ Partnered with Anova for Safe Cities London, an initiative related to women's safety
- ✓ Advocated for implementation of student feedback on instructors into course selection

ACADEMICS

Revisions to the Medical Note Policy

Waitlist for Course Registration

Fall Reading Week

Tuition Cap Freeze

Free, Open Textbooks

Free Western Documents

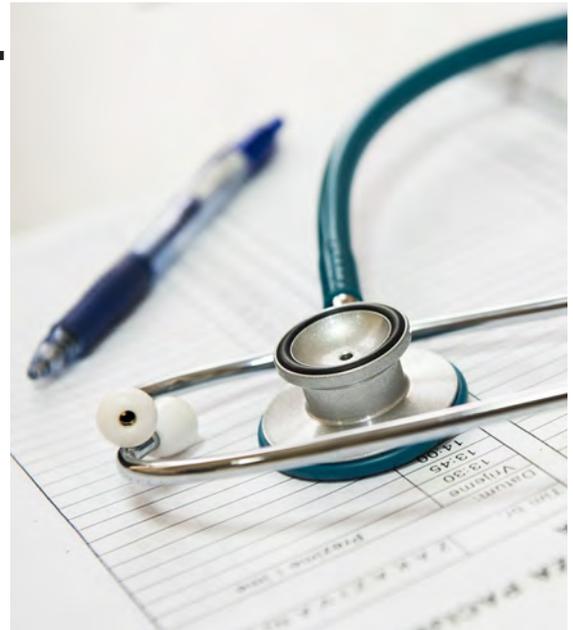
Increased Study Space and Resources





REVISIONS TO THE MEDICAL NOTE POLICY

We have been working closely with administration, faculty, VP Academics/University Affairs of faculty and affiliate student councils, academic counsellors, and the student senators to find a solution that works for everyone. The new Academic Consideration for Student Absences for Undergraduates in First Entry Programs was passed at Senate, and will allow students to self-report their absences for 48 hours or less up to 2 times during the academic year. This program will uphold academic integrity while giving students the flexibility they need—we see it as a win for everyone involved.



WAITLIST FOR COURSE REGISTRATION

The Registrar's Office will now be piloting a course waitlist for the 2019 Summer Term in hopes to collect data for if this could be extended for throughout the academic years.

FALL READING WEEK

VP Danny Chang sat on the review committee for the Fall Reading Week, and we are excited to announce that Fall Reading Week is now permanent, effective September 1, 2019. Fall Reading Week will be held during the 3rd monday after Thanksgiving Monday, during a time more convenient and useful to students.

TUITION CAP FREEZE

Where we stand: Complete. Tuition goes up every year, increasing the financial barrier between you and attending Western. Ontario universities could previously increase tuition by up to 3% each year. This semester, Danny Chang and his Associate VP, Cat Dunne, co-authored OUSA's Policy stance on Tuition. In it, they have established OUSA's stance to be a tuition cap freeze with an increase to operating grants to restore fair cost-sharing between students and the province. OUSA then lobbied on this in November during their Student Advocacy Week, meeting over 65 MPPs across the province. Unfortunately, the Tuition Cap Freeze has been tied to the recent announcement made by the Provincial Government, including a 10% decrease to tuition without an increase to operating grants, OSAP funding changes and the addition of the opt-out options for non-essential, non-tuition fees. The USC, along with OUSA will advocate for accessible and affordable post-secondary education.



FREE, OPEN TEXTBOOKS

The USC held a seat on Western's Open Education Working Group and we look forward to seeing the group's recommendations be adopted by the university. We also wrote a submission to university administration to advocate for investments in the next budget and our annual #TextbookBroke campaign in the fall resulted in 325 students on campus signing a petition regarding the cost of learning materials.



FREE WESTERN DOCUMENTS

This year, we advocated to reduce costs for students paying for certain documents such as transcripts. Given the recent reduction in tuition, we encountered obstacles given the financial pressures placed on the university. We are committed to continuing to work with the Registrar to find a conclusion for this in the future.



INCREASED STUDY SPACE AND RESOURCES

The USC has committed to increasing availability of student study space during exam time in USC spaces. The USC also helped develop a “no-saves” campaign with Western Libraries, ensuring that students are able to find study spaces that they need. Moving forward, the USC is helping develop the student-facing strategy for Weldon’s upcoming \$2M renovation.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

VP Student Events Roundtable*

Purple Fest

Club Finance Commission*

Student Writer in Residence Budget*

Live! At the Wave

Preferred First Name

Club Email Reform*

HBK and Main Campus Club Cooperation*

Grants Transparency

Faculty, Affiliate and Professional Roundtables

Free Coffee/Tea Station During Exams

TriSci and Beyond*

Club Town Halls*

Western English Language Centre (WELC) Representation

Promote Soph Subsidies*

Club Office Hours*

Campus Wide Office Hours

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

USC Food Fest

USC Food Policy*

Homecoming Parade

Soph Fee Review

Assessing Western Link - pilot*

**Promoting Existing Celebrations of
Music and Art on Campus**

Propel Meets the Purple Store

Clubs Space Renovation





VP STUDENT EVENTS ROUNDTABLE*

We have established a consistent VP Student Events roundtable every month of the academic year thus far. This group of students contains representatives from each of our undergraduate and professional school constituencies. The meetings have generated increased collaboration and knowledge-sharing across student programmers on campus. We hope to continue this in the future!

PURPLE FEST

This year, we hosted the largest university concert in Canada, bringing in names such as Lil Uzi Vert, Juice WRLD, Loud Luxury, and Murda Beatz, with 11,000 tickets sold. We hope to continue this tradition moving forward.



CLUB FINANCE COMMISSION*

A new clubs inventory policy that allows clubs to maintain their own inventory has been created and passed through the Clubs Governance Committee. Club Reimbursement times have been going smoothly this year, and members have been receiving reimbursements in a timely manner.

STUDENT WRITER IN RESIDENCE BUDGET*

Our Update: Our Student Writer-in-Residence (SWIR) program is the only one of its kind in Canada. We worked with A&H's English Department to better outline reporting structures, support resources, hiring guideline, and expectations of the role. We also provided a budget to support and foster exchange among aspiring student writers and contribute to the culture of campus creativity.

* Student Programs Officer Platform Point

LIVE! AT THE WAVE

This semester, we hosted "Super Bowl Sunday at the Wave" featuring All-you-can-eat wings, pizza, nacho cheese fountain, and more, for only \$15! We also hosted the Bachelor Live Finale event which was completely sold out! We'll continue to work to provide Wave specials for students coming to watch major events.



PREFERRED FIRST NAME

We recognize that some students may wish to use a preferred name over their legal first name to identify themselves. Thanks to the USC's advocacy, the Registrar's Office went through a software upgrade that will make this system possible - taking another step to make our campus more inclusive. In Winter 2019, the Registrar's Office began allowing self-identification on non-legal documentation, such as class lists, UWO email accounts, and student IDs.



CLUB EMAIL REFORM*

Club contact emails were inconsistently logged on Western Link, club executives were having issues during transition in turning over and losing login information, and there was no uniformity to club contacts. Over the summer, we created a unique club @westernusc.ca gmail for each of our 200+ clubs to create uniformity, increase accessibility, and mitigate losing login information during transition.

HBK AND MAIN CAMPUS CLUB COOPERATION*

Main campus clubs week can oftentimes feel inaccessible to our affiliate students. We mitigated this issue by proactively communicating with Huron, Brescia, and Kings' councils during the summer, and the USC was able to open the opportunity for main campus clubs to attend HBK club weeks.



GRANTS TRANSPARENCY

The USC Grant Fund spends about \$100,000 of student money each year - where it goes you ask? We recently shared a breakdown of grants that fund student initiatives this year, which reveals that 50 grants were given, totalling \$75, 587. To name a few: TAW - Taiwanese Association at Western's Night Market, Western Voice, and Western Formula Racing have benefited from this year's fund, which exists for you to create initiatives that you want to see on our campus!

* Student Programs Officer Platform Point

FACULTY, AFFILIATE AND PROFESSIONAL ROUNDTABLES

We have made modifications to suit the needs of Faculty, Affiliate and Professional schools. From 1-on-1's, to attending every single Faculty, Affiliate, Professional, and Residence council meetings, we have committed to listening to our students. We will continue to host these events to meet the needs of all of our constituents. We also held VP Academic, VP Student Events and Presidents' Roundtables to meet with all of these constituency members representatives.

FREE COFFEE/TEA STATION DURING EXAMS

During the December and April exam periods, we provided free coffee and tea during finals season in the Weldon Lobby. We know it's the little things that make a big difference in your studies or wellbeing!



TRISCI AND BEYOND*

In November, FAM x USC hosted Holle-rado. In January, we hosted Purple Frost with TriSci (Health Science, Science and Social Science). And at the end of the year, we hosted Purple Finale with Huron, Brescia, and Kings!

CLUB TOWN HALLS*

In first semester, we hosted a number of town halls, all advertised to club executives via email and on our clubs community social media. A number of students have come out to ask us questions, or learn more about the system. We know coming out to a town hall isn't accessible for everyone, so additional to the club town halls, in January we sent all club members a link to a survey about their experience in the clubs system to make providing feedback as easy as ever.



WESTERN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER (WELC) REPRESENTATION

WELC provides English language training for international students for 1-4 terms before they enroll in programs they've been conditionally accepted to. Students enrolled in WELC pay their own tuition and even pay USC fees, but have no representation on the USC Council. The WELC representative will come into effect next year as a motion was passed at last year's summer council for implementation in the 2019-20 academic year that gives a position to a WELC representative, including voting rights!

* Student Programs Officer Platform Point

PROMOTE SOPH SUBSIDIES*

Reducing barriers for student volunteer opportunities should be a given. This past summer, we formalized the financial accommodation system to make it less burdensome for sophs to receive assistance, reducing barriers to involvement.

CLUB OFFICE HOURS*

In order to ensure we are most accessible to clubs, we held office hours during first semester in the clubs space each week with the clubs system team. Students have been using this time to ask questions, and understand more of the minutiae of the system. Due to its success, we continued this in second semester.

CAMPUS WIDE OFFICE HOURS

Did you see us at your respective faculty building? We held office hours every week across campus. We have visited every constituency to date!



USC FOOD FEST

This year, the USC incorporated food trucks into Purplefest. The USC holds a seat on the the Homecoming Task Force allowing us to have a say over what food options are available. We are committed to working alongside our partners in administration, as well as the City of London and others to find ways to incorporate a more local food trucks and restaurants into our events, such as Purplefest.

USC FOOD POLICY*

A consistent complaint across all clubs has been the USC "Food Policy", which simply put, is our policy outlining food usage, and its accessibility for students. We wrote a Memorandum of Understanding to better outline food usage in spaces across campus, and it is under review by the University.

HOMECOMING PARADE

This year given limited capacity, we focused on our partnerships with Athletics and Alumni and collectively dedicated resources to discussions around Purple Fest 2018 and shift in culture around athletics. We will continue talks with Marching Band and Athletics when discussing future events and programming.

* Student Programs Officer Platform Point



SOPH FEE REVIEW

Sophs are volunteers who dedicate their time and effort towards ensuring first-years have a smooth transition to life at Western. Sophs currently must pay an administration fee to participate in the Orientation program, on top of uniform fees and other costs. Moving forward, we will continue our conversations with Alumni Western in looking to reduce financial barriers for students, perhaps in the form of a pilot project.

ASSESSING WESTERN LINK - PILOT*

WesternLink is a point of frustration for many clubs and Faculty Councils due to its limited utility. We are in the midst of conducting a pilot project with 15 clubs on an alternative platform to Western Link. The pilot ended in December, and information about the platform was evaluated this past semester to inform the incoming team of next steps.

PROPEL MEETS THE PURPLE STORE

The USC has hosted initial meetings with the new Director of Propel to look at ways we can provide additional space for student brands to show off their products. We are looking to create a mutually beneficial system for the allotment of this space in one of the most visible spots on campus.



PROMOTING EXISTING CELEBRATIONS OF MUSIC AND ART ON CAMPUS

From Purple Sex to Battle of the Bands, we have made sure that existing events are promoted and supported, showcasing student talent across our campus.

CLUBS SPACE RENOVATION

Our clubs system has vocalized a need to see renovations in their space. We're evaluating the ability to empower our clubs and enable them to create the best programming possible. We have been able to accommodate a temporary dance space for our clubs, but will look to find a more permanent solution in the future.



* Student Programs Officer Platform Point

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

SPOKE AND WAVE:

More Healthy Food Options

Menu Labelling

Spoke Travel Mugs





COMPLETE

MORE HEALTHY FOOD OPTIONS

From the "Beyond Meat Burger" at the which is vegan, to incredi-bowls at the wave. We looking to meet your needs and expand your choices for cheap, vegetarian, or vegan-friendly food options! We will continue to work with the Spoke and the Wave to look for ways to deliver healthy, fresh food options.



ONGOING

MENU LABELLING

We're going to continue to look for a clear labelling system for our menus but in the meantime, Servers at the Wave can recommend an item that fits dietary restrictions. Whether that means suggesting options that make a dish vegan, vegetarian or lactose free - we can work to find options that meet your needs.

SPOKE TRAVEL MUGS

As one of the top caffeine refueling stations on campus, the Spoke will look to showcase new travel mug designs and promote the benefits of #goingreusable to incentivize Western students towards reducing our campus carbon footprint!

SAFER WESTERN

Executive Team for Associate Peer Support Centre Supervisor*

Consent is Key*

Blue Emergency Phones

Railing Guards on Campus

Repairing Old Buildings

Coordinator Sensitivity and Disclosure Training*

Sexual Violence Prevention*

Restoring Original Homecoming Date

Safety First: Original Homecoming Date



EXECUTIVE TEAM FOR ASSOCIATE PEER SUPPORT CENTRE SUPERVISOR*

The Peer Support required more support. The Peer Support Associate has a team of 40+ fantastic and well-trained volunteer staff that they manage. However, they do not have a support system, such as an executive structure, to help take care of the centre's social media, outreach, or daily responsibilities. In September, we worked to ensure that the Associate Peer Programs was able to hire their own executive team to help plan initiatives and support the continued development and growth of the centre.

CONSENT IS KEY*

Addressing sexual violence on campus must start with our new Mustangs during Orientation Week. We created "the absence of a yes is a no" button campaign for each of our first year students and sophs, and made that part of a larger conversation with the creation of the "GET CONSENT" infographic shared widely on-campus. We also welcomed Farrah Khan and Mike Domitrz back to campus to give information about how to maintain healthy relationships and know consent beyond first year.



BLUE EMERGENCY PHONES

Throughout campus, Western has Blue Emergency Phone poles which connect you directly to Campus Police. We worked with the University to ensure that each of these Blue Emergency Phone poles are in working order.

* Student Programs Officer Platform Point

RAILING GUARDS ON CAMPUS

The USC has been working closely with Facilities Management to address safety issues on campus, including our involvement with the Open Landscape Plan. The plan around student safety has shifted away from railing guards because moving forward, a number of unsafe areas will actually no longer be accessible for pedestrians so the USC is focused on bolstering safety and awareness along new pedestrian paths, such as the new path behind Talbot College.

REPAIRING OLD BUILDINGS

This year, we have prioritized listening to students' concerns and raising them to Western Administration. We are committed to working with the university to ensure that accessibility needs are being met on campus and buildings are maintained properly.

COORDINATOR SENSITIVITY AND DISCLOSURE TRAINING*

Our coordinators work with individuals in our community who may have experienced varying levels of trauma. We have created a series of professional development sessions for all coordinators and their committees that give them specific knowledge of disclosures, sensitivity, confidentiality, sexual violence, and conflict management. This has resulted in better service, and a healthier workplace for our students.



SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION*

Our executive has successfully advocated to have a formal working group struck within the university to review Western's stand-alone sexual violence policy (created in response to provincial Bill 132), as well as the practices in place on campus. We provided mandatory sexual violence education training for all of our USC Councillors in September and October. We are a member of the Consent and Sexual Violence Awareness week planning committee, and we hold a seat on Western's sexual violence prevention committee. Additionally this past summer the USC became a supporting partner in Anova's Safe City London initiative, having a say in recommendations for how to improve women and girls' safety across London.

* Student Programs Officer Platform Point

RESTORING ORIGINAL HOMECOMING DATE

After the Homecoming date was changed in 2016, tensions have grown between university administrators, students, and the City of London. This year, we worked to get each of these audiences on the same page to provide large scale alternative programming, even striking committees across the university and City to address this concern.



SAFETY FIRST: ORIGINAL HOMECOMING DATE

We worked with stakeholders within the City of London to host a successful event at the end of September. Our goal, was to create an event that allows students to feel like a part of the Western community. Safety should come first and should continue to be the priority. We will work continue to work with campus and community stakeholders, recognizing that student safety should come first, regardless of which day students decide to celebrate Homecoming.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, DIVERSITY, AND SUPPORT

PROACTIVE SOLUTIONS

**Mental Health First Aid Training for
Campus Leaders**

USC Wellness Portal

**A Supportive Campus and Reduced
Stigma**





ONGOING

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING FOR CAMPUS LEADERS

We recognize that students in need of support are primarily directed to Student Health Services. This year, we have worked to increase awareness about mental health supports. Western's Health and Wellness portal makes it easier for students to understand what resources are available to them, and how to access them. In the future, we will look to provide training of this nature to our student leaders through the USC Foundation. The USC Foundation has been established by alumni of the University Students' Council and is a registered Canadian charitable foundation. It is focused primarily on promoting the health and well-being of Western University students by providing them with physical and mental health support services.

USC WELLNESS PORTAL

Seeking support needs to be simple. We created a simple guide to mental health and worked with Western to better integrate our wellness communications, have you checked out the new Health and Wellness Portal? <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> We will continue to look for ways to creative interactive support and access to resources to help you find what you need.



A SUPPORTIVE CAMPUS AND REDUCED STIGMA

Rather than our original proposal to implement Inquiring Mind, we have worked with Western to implement the stepped-care Thriving model. We worked with Western to ensure that mental health is a priority on this campus, securing \$800,000 in increases to supports to Mental Health. We have also helped to launch a restructuring within Western's Student Experience portfolio.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, DIVERSITY, AND SUPPORT

REACTIVE SOLUTIONS

**Consolidation of Mental Health
Resources**

Continued Support of Crisis Counseling





COMPLETE

CONSOLIDATION OF MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Similar to the point above, we worked with Western to implement the stepped-care Thriving model. We called for the consolidation and streamlining of existing resources across Western, to bring together the resources and promotion of services such as the Wellness Education Centre, Peer Support Centre, and Student Health Services will create a more streamlined support system for Western students. This will be a reality in the new Thames Hall renovations in 2021.

CONTINUED SUPPORT OF CRISIS COUNSELING

Student Health Services recently received \$238,000 to support crisis counselling over the next three years during peak times of the school year. We added crisis counselling support during Orientation Week and extended final crisis counselling to 5 weeks.



HEALTH, WELLNESS, DIVERSITY, AND SUPPORT

GENERAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Accessibility and Inclusivity Checklist*

Assessed Allyship Network Training*

Health Benefits Promotion

Reverie Support*

Rec Centre Classes



ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY CHECKLIST*

Last academic year, the Peer Programming portfolio created an Accessibility and Inclusivity Checklist that lists a variety of “to do” and “to consider” items when planning a program on campus. We have consulted a variety of on-campus partners to ensure the list is as up-to-date and accurate as possible. The Student Experience standing committee of the USC approved the list, and the list was unanimously approved through a motion at the October 31st USC council meeting.

ASSESSED ALLYSHIP NETWORK TRAINING*

In the summer our Allyship Network Coordinator redesigned the Allyship training to be more robust, comprehensive, and inclusive. By allowing for the training to be assessed by various professionals with lived experience and knowledge of the topics covered in Ally Training, we have ensured the content is as up-to-date and accurate as possible.



HEALTH BENEFITS PROMOTION

Did you know that 80% of your ambulance costs are covered by the USC health plan? What about \$320 covered for professional massages? We worked to provide quick facts on the health plan through the USC app and our social media channels near the opt-out date. We hope to continue improving these efforts next year.

* Student Programs Officer Platform Point

REVERIE SUPPORT*

Reverie is a fantastic celebration of the arts and culture on Western's campus- but it does not receive the attention it deserves. In anticipation of the weeklong celebration in March, we rebranded "Reverie" to "Festival of the Arts" in order to make the promotion of the week's long programming more clear to students. We have also worked with our Arts and Humanities, FIMS, and Music students' councils to ensure they are a part of the Festival of the Arts planning process, so as to consolidate programming efforts and make the week more collaborative.



REC CENTRE CLASSES

This year, we completed two full pilot programs of the women's only hours at the Western Student Recreation Centre. Currently, Studio 2 of the Western Recreation Centre has been transformed into a women's only fitness facility, open for more than 40 hours per week. Campus Recreation has also been offering free group fitness classes for students during high stress times, such as exams.

* Student Programs Officer Platform Point

LIFE IN LONDON

London Community (Town and Gown)

Your City, Your Say

Bus Rapid Transit on Campus



LONDON COMMUNITY (TOWN AND GOWN)

Western is currently a member of the Town and Gown Association of Ontario: a group dedicated to growing relationships between post-secondary institutions and their cities. Vice President Chang was elected as Chair of the Town and Gown Association this past year and has focussed on making the work of the committee more clear to support students in London.



YOUR CITY, YOUR SAY

During the fall municipal election, we worked to empower students to make informed decisions. The USC completed a door-knocking campaign in all residence buildings, arranged Pints & Politics with municipal candidates, posted candidate profiles on social media, streamlined promotion for mayoral debates, provided proof of residency for students at on-campus polling locations and sought media coverage to ensure student voices were heard.



BUS RAPID TRANSIT ON CAMPUS

After the election, we wrote a letter with the Fanshawe Student Union to the new City Council and the Mayor to express our continued support of better transit in London. The USC supports the implementation of bus rapid transit to better student life and advocate for better transit.

While the funding for the North-Leg along Richmond was not presented to the provincial and federal government, the USC will continue to advocate for better transit in London, working on alternative plans with our stakeholders.



THANK YOU!

From your USC Executive Team 2018/19:

Mitch Pratt - President

Danny Chang - Vice President

Carina Gabriele - Student Programs Officer

Mikaela Harrison - Communications Officer

Andreea Bejan - Secretary Treasurer

