

YEARBOOK

2021-2022



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of Student Leaders

DEDICATION

We dedicate this yearbook to the students at Western University. To the ones we lost this year in tragedy. To the students who struggled with grief, loss, and trauma. To the students who came together to demand better, and for more from our institutions. To students who got through this year with resilience and a belief in making our campus community a safer place. To the current generation of students who had to navigate a university year like no other. To the next generation who will take what we have learned this year and ensure that the next is better. This is all from you, and it is all for you. Thank you.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land Western University is situated on is important to students for so many reasons: it serves as a place of growth, learning, and development; it facilitates community-building; it relaxes and soothes us; and in many ways, it provides for us.

However this land does not belong to Western, nor does it belong to the USC; both organizations have been built by and historically for the settlers who now reside on the land. This land we are lucky to be able to spend our post-secondary careers upon has a rich history prior to the arrival of European colonizers and settlers, a history that we have played an active role in erasing.

The USC acknowledges that Western University is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples whom we recognize as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors to our community.

Understanding the story of this land should inspire us to take action; acknowledgement is not enough. We must also actively commit to the decolonization of our university and reconciliation with local Indigenous nations. Afterall, colonization is not an isolated event, frozen in time; it is a process which we all as settlers currently play a role in perpetuating, disrupting, and more often than not both.

Our recognition of the land we are situated upon and the histories of its traditional caretakers has inspired the equity and anti-colonial work of the USC. We hope that every student actively acts as allies of Indigenous peoples and does their part to support Indigenous resilience and decolonization.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Students have the power to change the world.

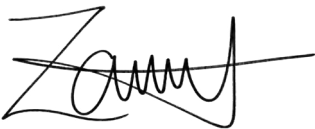
As daunting as the USC's mission statement may be, our Executive Team was determined to live up to the task. Each of us had our own unique journey that led us to the USC, but we all shared a commitment to supporting students. Bringing our experiences and ideas to the USC was an opportunity to leverage our skills for enhancing students' lives in meaningful and tangible ways. We began with big dreams. We strived to use our lived and learned experiences to change the way equity work is approached in the post-secondary sector, embed a wellness lens into programming, advocate for robust sustainable practices at Western University, and more.

We were determined to honour and incorporate the diverse passions and priorities of the student body. Even though our terms were marked by violence, tragedy, and crisis. Our London community grappled with the aftermath of a deadly Islamophobic hate crime, our return to campus was defined by a surge of sexual and gender-based violence and the death of a student leading to confusion and pain, and our student experience was challenged in unprecedented ways due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to have worked together with a spirit of resilience; to have found ways of building community, dismantling systemic barriers, and providing essential services in order to support students during a tumultuous academic year.

We know this year has been tough. However, our team has been inspired by the willpower of our community to come together and create change. Motivated by the stories of students, we got to work. It was our utmost privilege to serve students and introduce keystone projects, services, events, and advocacy wins.

This yearbook chronicles the challenges, advocacy initiatives, programs, and movements that we have presented and engaged with this year. We are excited to share the work the USC has advanced under the leadership of students as we welcome the next generation of student leaders.

Sincerely,



Zamir Fakirani
President



Ziyana Kotadia
VP University Affairs



Nathan Szierer
VP Governance & Finance



Eunice Oladejo
VP External Affairs



Maddie Osborne
VP Student Support & Programming



Callista Ryan
VP Communications & Public Affairs



VISION, MISSION, VALUES

VISION

Students have the power to change the world.

MISSION

To enhance the educational experience and quality of life for all undergraduates at Western University.

VALUES

We are democratic. We are inclusive. We are student led.
We are accountable to our students. We operate with integrity.



ADVOCATING FOR YOU

“As painful and challenging as this year has been, I have also never before seen the kind of solidarity and momentum for change that we’ve demonstrated together as a student community.”

– **Ziyana Kotadia**, VP University Affairs

Anti-Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (ASGBV)

It’s been time for change.

Sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response has been the USC’s top priority this year because students deserve to live and study on a campus where they not only feel safe, but are protected by the institutions that surround them. The wave of gender-based violence we saw unfold at the beginning of the 2021–2022 school year was unacceptable and symptomatic of a larger crisis on campus that has been building for generations. It was not enough for us to ask for change; the USC needed to demand it.

Our campus community rallied together in unprecedented ways that created powerful momentum for change. We prioritized sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response work throughout the year, including:

- Endorsing and supporting two student led walkouts
- Engaging with local, provincial, and national media
- Contributing to the work of [Western’s Gender-Based and Sexual Violence \(GBSV\) Action Committee](#)



- Consulting with students and experts to create recommendations for the university and government
- Producing a comprehensive [Anti-Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy Paper](#)
- Representing the voices of students in lobby meetings with senior administration and government officials
- Launching [Free the Dot](#), an active demonstration of gender equity on campus
- Declaring a gender-based violence crisis on campus
- Hosting a [Week of Action](#) to support student and community-engaged advocacy across campus
- Presenting a petition to the provincial government with over 700 student signatures to advocate for legislative change

Transforming the culture around sexual and gender-based violence requires the support and action of Western University and the province. The USC was loud and clear with stakeholders about student needs when we successfully advocated for:

- Hiring an additional GBSV Support Case Manager and an additional GBSV Prevention and Education Coordinator
- Mandating consent-training modules for all incoming students, students in residence, faculty and staff
- Allowing Sophs back into residence during Fall 2021 to support their students
- Significant investments into improving Soph Training for OWeek 2022 onwards, including

- improved sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response training and suicide intervention training
- An 800K investment towards free menstrual products in washrooms through Free the Dot
- Improving lighting around TD Stadium
- Changing Ontario Regulation 131/16 to provide support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence
- Adding sexual and gender-based violence prevention training into Smart Serve so servers can recognize and address sexual violence
- Eliminating the server sub-minimum wage so that servers are not put into unsafe situations in order to gain tips

ASGBV prevention and response work is far from over. Our new Anti-Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy Paper has been unanimously endorsed by the USC Council and includes key [recommendations](#) on intersectional approaches to combatting gender-based violence that students want to see the University prioritize. Some of our key recommendations to the University for the future include:

- Creating a line of reporting between Gender-Based Violence and Survivor Support in Student Experience to the Office of the AVP EDI to ensure equity-oriented approaches are prioritized in sexual and gender-based violence response and prevention work
- Adopting a “no-wrong-door” approach to sexual and gender-based violence; students should be able to disclose to whomever and follow the same intake process
- Investigating the viability of a third-party sexual and gender-based violence reporting tool for campus community members

We continue to collaborate with important partners such as the [Safe Campus Coalition](#) and Western’s Gender-Based and Sexual Violence Action Committee. We know the next generation believes this work is important, and we hope to see the momentum on this file continue in the years to come.

Free the Dot Menstrual Products Program

Menstrual products are a necessity – not a luxury.

In May 2022, Western University [announced](#) in their 2022–2023 Capital and Operating Budgets that they would commit \$800,000 over two years to fund the USC’s free menstrual products program, Free the Dot. This is the first time Western University has invested in free menstrual products for students, and the USC is proud and excited to see that our advocacy has created opportunities for students who menstruate to access free products, reduce financial and social barriers to education that menstruators experience.

Advocacy efforts included lobby meetings with senior university leadership, collaboration with Western Facilities Management, a student-at-large petition, working with faculty and affiliate councils on a letter-writing effort, working with Western’s Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Action Committee to integrate Free the Dot in their report of recommendations, and advancing the recommendation that the university offer students access to free menstrual products into three separate advocacy submissions between September 2021 and March 2022.

“Providing free menstrual products is an important way to proactively create an inclusive culture on campus by reducing the stigma surrounding menstrual products, reinforcing the normalization of menstruation, and ensuring menstruators feel empowered to move through spaces on campus with a sense of belonging.”

- Ziyana Kotadia, Vice President University Affairs



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Equity and anti-racism work cannot afford to be an afterthought.

For the last several years, anti-racism and equity advocacy efforts have included asking the University to develop mandatory EDI training modules for the whole campus community (including faculty), create an EDI Strategic Plan for the institution, and collect long-term equity-based data on our campus community. This year, the University Affairs Portfolio wrote the USC's first-ever equity-based policy paper, [Racialized and Religious Students](#) which was unanimously endorsed by Council on November 24, 2021.

With the hiring of Western's new APV EDI, Dr. Opiyo Oloya, and the formalization of the EDI Office at Western, the USC is proud to share that each of these three student advocacy priorities are coming to fruition. Mandatory training modules for students, faculty, and staff are currently being developed on anti-racism fundamentals for Fall 2022, with additional complementary modules and future mandatory modules to be released as well. The [EDI Office](#) is also planning to produce a campus-wide EDI Strategic Plan beginning in Summer 2022, and the Fall 2021 Equity Census marked the beginning of the University's equity-based data collection efforts, which will continue each year, to inform future EDI projects.



Reflection Space

Many students have raised concerns that a lack of adequate and accessible prayer spaces across campus forces them to make difficult decisions: praying openly in uncomfortable or unsafe environments, or reserving practices which promote their spiritual wellness for when they are off-campus. The USC has long highlighted the importance of purposeful prayer spaces for religious students across campus, because students should not have to choose between their academics and their faith.

This year, the USC successfully introduced a reflection space in the UCC for religious students. We produced our first-ever Racialized and Religious Students Policy Paper which formally recommended that the University allocate space for prayer and reflection. As well, the USC supported faith-based groups, such as the Muslim Students' Association, in successfully advocating for the implementation of new prayer spaces and Chaplaincy services across campus. We are excited to see this new space being offered to our students and will continue to prioritize advocacy for religious minorities on campus.



Western Open Educational Resources (OERs)

By continuing to encourage faculty to adopt OERs, Western University can address affordability issues in higher education and make university degrees more accessible and attainable.

Advocating for the university to engage with OERs has been a long-standing priority for the USC. OERs, teaching, learning, and research resources that are created with the intention of being freely available to users anywhere, play an important role in reducing the costs associated with attending university and providing instructors flexibility in course design.

This year, the USC was excited to see Western Libraries (and its many partners) launch [Western's first-ever OER grant program](#), fulfilling a student recommendation articulated in our 2016 Policy Paper on OERs.

Additional UA Wins

The University Affairs portfolio has been working hard all year to translate the needs of students into actionables by working with:

- the Office of the Registrar to **revitalize the Student Awards Portal, last updated in 2012**
- the Office of the Registrar to see **an additional bursary component (about \$50) automatically added to students' need assessment** as a result of concerns raised by the USC about the fee associated with Enrollment Verification Letters
- the Office of the Registrar to ensure **students can now use their preferred names in Western's offer portal**
- the Office of Academic Quality and Enhancement to **improve supports for student reviews on cyclical review panels, including comprehensive training, compensation, and recognition on co-curricular records**

University Budget Submission Highlight:

Every year, the University Affairs Portfolio works with our Legislative Council to put together budget submission to advocate for priorities that require financial commitment from the University to advance. This year, the themes for our [University Budget Submission](#) were **Racial Equity, Gender Equity, Sustainability, and Work-Integrated Learning**. We recommended that the University:

- Invest in the provision of free menstrual products to be provided in all washrooms on campus;
- Invest in creating a long term strategic plan to clearly outline equity, diversity, and inclusion priorities and should commit significant financial resources to staffing the office of the AVP EDI so there is a robust team in place to both develop and execute this long-term strategic plan;
- Centralize EDI education and support resources and invest in the promotion of these resources to the student body;
- Invest in creating a framework for Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) that clearly defines success and addresses barriers to student participation in WIL opportunities, and allocated resources to implement that framework;
- Create a Green Revolving Fund to provide funding for projects focused on sustainability, tied to deferred maintenance planning;
- Invest in green roofs on campus, creating a plan to retrofit existing structures and mandating that future builds include a green roof

External Budget Submissions Highlight:

The External Affairs portfolio monitors three budget cycles (federal, provincial, and municipal) every year in order to further represent students' needs. Although priorities often overlap, our advocacy remains unique to the level of government that we advocate to.

- **Federally**, we aimed to influence the budget regarding student financial aid, student employment, and support for international students.
- **Provincially**, we advanced our recommendations to build a more affordable post-secondary education, increase mental health support, and improve services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.
- **Municipally**, the USC continued on previous advocacy efforts regarding increased spending for environmental sustainability and further integration of a gender-based analysis lens in policy development.



Get Out the Vote, 2021 Federal Election

With voter turnout often low among students and youth, it is essential that barriers to voting are eradicated.

In Fall 2021, a Federal snap election was called and the External Affairs portfolio developed a “Get Out the Vote” strategy to inform students on how to vote and why it matters.

The portfolio organized registration booths that allowed students to register to vote on campus, informed them of their various options, and encouraged them to learn about issues affecting them prior to voting. We further amplified resources provided by our federal advocacy body, the [Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities \(UCRU\)](#), on key issues that affect students.

In an effort to address Election Canada’s decision to remove the campus special ballot voting locations, we engaged heavily with local and national media. Although the decision was not reversed, Elections Canada committed to having special ballot voting locations on campus for the next federal election. As a result of this decision, the External Affairs Portfolio collaborated with Western University to organize shuttles throughout voting day which travelled from campus to the off-campus voting locations to ensure that students could easily and affordably reach polling stations.

Inter and Intra City Transit

Transit continues to be a key issue for students as they seek accessible and affordable transportation options to move within London and between cities.

A major concern for students from the start of this school year was transit. Specifically with Greyhound Canada closing in early Summer 2021, many students were worried about what accessible and affordable transportation options they would be provided with to move in and between cities.

The USC prioritized making affordable and accessible intercity transit options available to students. We advocated for alternatives to be developed to fill the gap that was produced by Greyhound’s closure, and saw a number of companies step up to provide this service during the school year.

We also advocated for the development of High Frequency Rail (HFR) in Southwestern Ontario, voicing the need for this service within the region to improve mobility flexibility for students. We have seen the federal government maintain its commitment to explore HFR in Southwestern Ontario and hope to see further steps taken as they continue the procurement process.

Lastly, upon the sudden closure of key London Transit Commission (LTC) bus routes, the USC conducted heavy consultations with students and advocated for the return of such routes as soon as possible. After various conversations with city Councillors and the LTC, we saw the return of these bus routes alongside commitments for a full service of all routes by Fall 2022. Through the development of the [Transit and Pedestrian Safety Policy Paper](#), these priorities will remain long-term advocacy points for the USC.



Key Federal Issues

It is crucial that students receive substantial support to not only mitigate immediate pandemic-related effects, but also any long-term implications.

Students have been greatly impacted by the effects of COVID-19 and recovery was a major area of concern from students across Canada. The USC participated in advocating to the federal government on critical student issues through UCRU. UCRU and the USC focused on student financial aid, student employment, mental health support, and support for students with disabilities. Understanding how COVID-19 exacerbated all these issues for international students, their needs were prioritized as well. Many of these issues were included within the mandate of the newly established federal government and we are looking forward to their actualization.

Composting

Environmental sustainability continues to be an issue that we must take seriously as a community.

A fully developed composting system within the London community has been a USC priority for many years. With London still not having an established system, this has remained a major concern for students. The City's composting system is said to be implemented by Fall 2022 and, therefore, the External Affairs portfolio ensured that the student voice was engaged within the final steps of development over the past year. We engaged with the City as they continued to develop this system and voiced concerns regarding budget cuts to this composting system. Composting is also included in the USC's first-ever *Environmental Sustainability Policy Paper* to ensure it is prioritized in years to come.

OUSA/UCRU leadership

In my role as Vice President External Affairs, I had the opportunity to sit on various external boards in which we do some of our advocacy through. This year, I served as President of our provincial advocacy body, the [Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance \(OUSA\)](#), and as Secretary Treasurer of the UCRU.

As President of OUSA and chair of the board, I worked to lead our team in steering the direction of our advocacy efforts as a coalition. Among other things, this year I was able to author two policy papers, speak at Queen's Park regarding accessible menstrual products, meet with the Minister of Colleges and Universities to discuss our priorities regarding sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response, and engage with media on pressing student issues such as student financial aid.

As Secretary Treasurer of UCRU, I worked with our Chair and Vice Chair in developing a budget submission and response, planning a Canada-wide federal advocacy week, meeting with various policy advisors within government ministries, developing our response to government announcements, and much more.

Serving on these boards has ensured that, among the needs of students across Ontario and Canada, I am able to represent the voice of Western students. It has been an honour to bring the voices of students to the Ontario and Federal Government.

Eunice Oladejo





University Affairs Policy Papers Highlight:

[Racial and Religious Students:](#) outlines equity and anti-racism recommendations on campus culture, equity-based data collection, student supports, representation, diversity in the classroom, and more.

[COVID-19 Mental Health:](#) articulates recommendations for supporting how to support student mental health through the pandemic, including access to resources and, social isolation and loneliness, residence life, and academic support.

[Anti-Sexual and Gender-Based Violence:](#) building on our initial list of recommendations formed in September 2021, this paper is the cornerstone of our anti-sexual and gender-based advocacy efforts, exploring recommendations on campus culture, prevention, response, student supports, and residence and orientation.

[Teaching, Learning, and Assessment:](#) delivers recommendations on how the University can improve the academic quality students experience, related to teaching and learning quality, Western Degree Outcomes, online learning, and proctoring practices.



Additional Advocacy Submissions Highlight:

[Anti-Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Recommendations List](#): An initial list of anti-sexual and gender-based violence recommendations produced in September 2021 by our University Affairs and External Affairs VPs.

Queer-Friendly Recreation Centre Recommendations List: A list of recommendations created by Pride USC and the University Affairs Portfolio to improve access to and the experience of LGBTQ+ students with Western's Student Recreation Centre.

External Affairs Policy Papers Highlight:

Responding to COVID-19: outlines key issues that students are facing in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, and provides recommendations to the provincial government on further ways to support post-secondary institutions and students as we move into recovery.

Mature Students: assess key and unique issues that Mature Students face and discuss how the government of Ontario can play a role in bridging gaps to support such students. This paper looks at major issues such as dependent care, social integration, and housing support.

[Environmental Sustainability](#): provides recommendations to Western University and government stakeholders on pressing environmental concerns that students are passionate about, from waste management and water usage to biodiversity and recycling.

[Transit and Pedestrian Safety](#): highlights how Western University and various levels of government can work together to increase the accessibility, affordability, and safety of transportation.





IMPROVING YOUR USC

“You have an important perspective to bring to the table and an irreplaceable role to play in making Western feel like home. Know that your perspective matters, and we want to hear it.”

– *Maddie Osborne, VP Student Support & Programming*

Council Reform

[USC Council](#) is crucial to the student population and the USC’s democratic process and is a platform to ensure student voices are heard.

The Council is one of our most important legislative bodies, as it provides the organization with its democratic legitimacy. Members of USC Council are elected by Western’s undergraduate population, with the primary goal of representing students. As this body is one of our most important, it is also key to make sure students understand how it operates, and how they can engage with it. In order to accomplish both of these goals, motions to make the following structural changes have been passed by Council:

- implemented a two-reading model where information is introduced to Council one week prior to a meeting dedicated to debate and voting to ensure Councillors had ample time to consult with constituents
- updated the USC’s legislative calendar to align with the USC’s fiscal year
- improved transparency by providing publicly available voting records of all motions put forth
- addressed the USC’s relationship with Greek Life on campus

Free the Dot Menstrual Products Program

It's 2022, menstrual products should be FREE and ACCESSIBLE. Period.

As the USC Executive began their terms, they received feedback that students were frustrated by the inaccessibility of menstrual products on campus. This became an important priority for the USC to address through advocacy and programming.

Free the Dot was a demonstration of gender equity on campus. Through the program, students could access pads, tampons, liners, menstrual cups, condoms, and dental dams which were delivered to their homes for free. Products would also be available in all washrooms throughout the UCC and for pick-up at InfoSource. Within six hours of launching the Free the Dot, 500 students submitted requests for products. Within three days, nearly 800 were submitted. It was clear to the USC that this program was essential and much needed for students on campus.

The USC has been overwhelmed by the positive response to Free the Dot and are honoured to offer such a crucial service to students. The USC's VP Student Support and Programming collaborated heavily with Food Support Services to launch Free the Dot.



Divestment

Divestment reflects students values that we do not need to exploit oil and gas resources in order to bolster our investments.

Students at Western University have been increasingly vocal about the need for student dollars to be invested in ways that are considerate of their beliefs and of the planet's wellbeing. The USC has seen Western students mobilize en masse and strike for the climate alongside the growing population of student-led climate action groups on campus. Candidates in the USC elections champion sustainability in their platforms because they know this idea is one deeply rooted in the experience of being a student today.

There have been calls from Western students for the USC to divest in the near and distant past, but this year's executive team felt that the timing was right to finally take the difficult but desired actions to best represent the needs, wants, and goals of the students. The USC Executive consulted with students throughout the year, including in the preparation of the *Environmental Sustainability Policy Paper*, to gauge students' perspectives on divestment. We heard passionate and informed perspectives, all centered around the desire to improve the USC's ability to be sustainable in our actions and do more to protect and preserve the natural environments that we are all reliant on.

The [decision to divest](#) was passed unanimously by the USC's three legislative bodies: Executive Council, the Board of Directors, and the USC Council. These legislative bodies alongside student voices agreed that the USC's divestment plan is sound and reflects the values of the student body.

Over the next three years, the USC will reallocate 61 per cent of invested funds out of pooled holdings containing fossil fuels and into sustainable, profitable, and fiscally-responsible funds.



Executive Roadmap

Each year, the USC Executive creates a [Roadmap](#) to summarize their goals and objectives for the year. The USC is a large organization with a pre-existing Charter, long-term strategic plan, policies, by-laws, and frameworks. What makes the Roadmap unique, is that it is designed wholly by the executives of each year. These priorities are based on their platforms, pitches, and student experience. This Roadmap is their guiding document to highlight their key priorities with distinct initiatives and goals within those priorities.

Each year, the Executive Roadmap is unique. This year, USC Executive made Transparency and Accountability a priority and publishing the details and updates of the Executives progress on the Roadmap was an important part of the process. The design of this Roadmap was also created by a student to showcase our ten priorities in a creative form.



Launching the USC Nest

The USC NEST will create an opportunity for individual and community support, collaboration, and advocacy work in a non-clinical space that is developed by students, for students.

For years, the USC has heard from students that mental health support on campus is not intersectional and diverse enough – both in terms of the supporters’ identities and in the variety of support available. In particular, it was clear to the USC that many students, and especially equity-seeking students, prefer to seek initial support from a peer over a professional, but Western’s services were not meeting this need. The USC Executive saw an opportunity to develop innovative support services to students that could not be found anywhere else on campus to address this gap through the USC Network of Equity and Support Teams (NEST).

Through extensive consultations, the USC Executive roadmapped a dedicated space that will allow students to access intersectional, proactive and reactive wellness support, and services that will empower them to make decisions about their wellness. The USC NEST is a space for students to seek support; learn about their wellness and self-care practice; decompress; recharge; connect with other students; access a meal, clothing, or menstrual products; and is designed to change and adapt as students’ own needs do.

“Developing the NEST has been a passion project of mine for the last two years, and I’m so excited for its potential to offer holistic and intersectional wellness support to students in a way that you can’t find anywhere else on campus.”
 – Maddie Osborne, VP Student Support & Programming

Peer Programs Volunteers

Peer Programs volunteers have created more opportunities to support equity-seeking students, who have indicated a lack of health and wellness supporters with lived experience on campus is a barrier in accessing resources.

The Student Support and Programming portfolio created and implemented a new division of [Peer Support](#) to introduce peer programs volunteers. Peer Programs volunteers offer support hosted by self-identified LGBTQIA, two spirit, and BIPOC students, and in the near future the USC will be expanding to better support students with disabilities and Indigenous-identifying students.

“It became really clear to me how important it is that students’ supporters have similar lived experiences to their own and that students were not finding the diversity and range of experience that they were looking for on Western’s campus. I hope that we were able to address this through the peer programs volunteers.”
 – Maddie Osborne, VP Student Support & Programming





WELCOME HOME

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

I stand against sexual and gender-based violence because:
My Campus Community is Important to me

Left Page, Clockwise: Charity Soph at OWeek;
Science Soph taking a photo; the famous Rick
McGhie during the USC’s Pumpkin Carving event

Right Page, Clockwise: Opening act, Two
Friends, at OWeek opening ceremonies; Off
Campus Soph in front of UC Tower during OWeek
opening ceremonies; Faculty of Music Soph per-
forming at OWeek





Left Page, Clockwise: DVSN, at OWeek closing ceremonies; USC PurpleStore model, Sunday Ajak, promoting Spring collection

Right Page, Clockwise: Essex Sophs at OWeek opening ceremonies; USC PurpleStore models, Alex Bonnar (left), Zamir Fakirani (right), promoting PRIDE collection; Paper Art Club booth at USC Clubs Week





Left Page, Top to Bottom: USC executive and Councillors at an in person Council meeting; Council Speaker and Deputy Speaker at a Council meeting

Right Page, Top to Bottom: USC VP External Affairs and OUSA President, Eunice Oledajo speaking at a press conference requesting post-secondary institutions provide free menstrual products on campuses; Nathan Kennedy, presenting at USC's Financial Literacy Week

Left Page, Clockwise: Performer at USC Day;
participant at USC’s Puppy Yoga event; VP
Communications & Public Affairs, Callista Ryan,
grabbing a coffee at The Spoke; volunteer
helping to stuff OWeek Kits

Right Page, Top to Bottom: Indigenous Relations
Coordinator, Otsistonkie Lazore, at USC Day;
Volunteer at USC Charity booth at USC Day





Left Page, Clockwise: Western Chess and Go Club booth at USC Clubs Week; Volunteer at USC Together for Change: Anti-Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Week of Action

Right Page, Clockwise: 2022 House Olympics winning team, the DILFs (Dads in Landshark Fits)





Left Page, Clockwise: 2021-2022 USC Executives ringing in the new year; LTC bus on campus

Right Page, Clockwise: Infamous campus goose; Student embracing campus in the winter; Geese in flight over UC Hill





USC BY THE NUMBERS

“The USC is so much more than Robert’s Rules and Council Chambers. We are a 30 million dollar organization unifying over 30,000 students across Western, Brescia, Huron, and King’s with a single mission: to make your time here the best it can be.”
– Zamir Fakirani, President

ADVOCACY




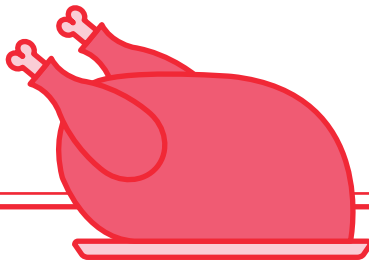
OPERATIONS

 **116,409** BAGELS SOLD THIS YEAR

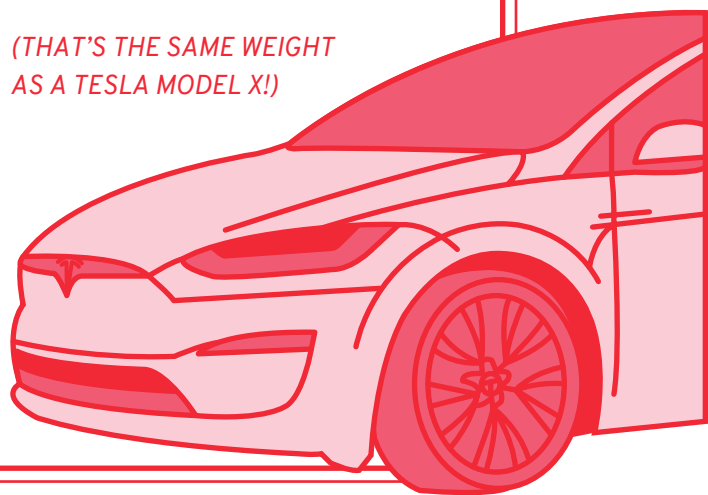
11,128 ICED COFFEES SOLD THIS YEAR

787 lbs OF SMOKED SALMON SOLD THIS YEAR

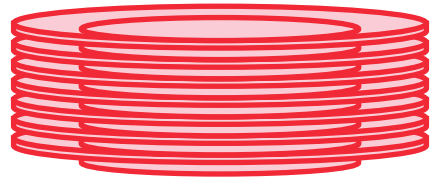



2950 lbs OF TURKEY SOLD THIS YEAR

4536.5 lbs OF COOKIES SOLD THIS YEAR
(THAT'S THE SAME WEIGHT AS A TESLA MODEL X!)

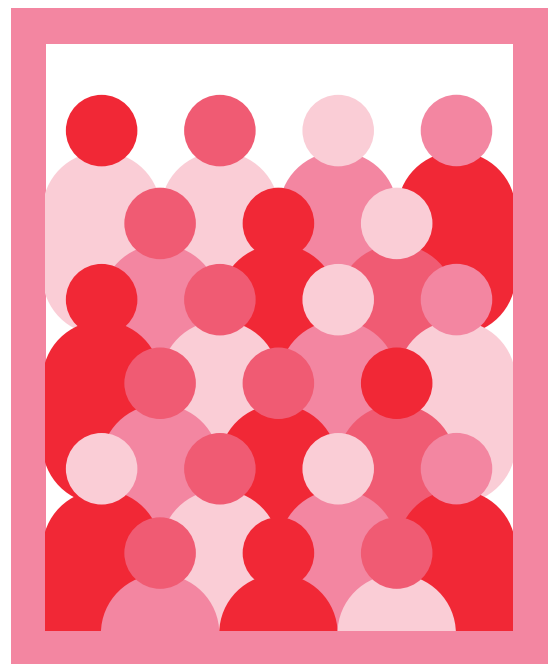


12,030 lbs OF CHICKEN FINGERS SOLD THIS YEAR







CLUBS


IN 2021–2022, THE USC HAD
192 CLUBS
AND
FOR 2022–2023, WE'VE RATIFIED
13 NEW CLUBS!
18,282 CLUB MEMBERSHIPS SOLD



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

 
112,239 LIKES ON IG + FB
249,547 ACCOUNTS REACHED
 
82,468 VIEWS ON TIKTOK
24,290 CLICKS ON LINKTREE

\$39,072 IN GRANTS GIVEN THIS YEAR



USC, ROOM 340

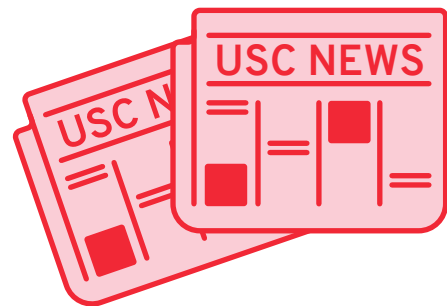
YOUR NAME! **\$39,072.00**

Thirty-Nine Thousand Seventy-Two Dollars and 00/100

6,102 NEW FOLLOWERS ON IG



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

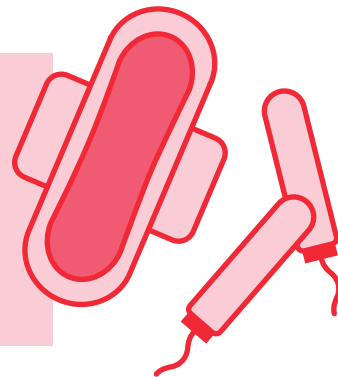


80

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND
ENGAGEMENTS THIS YEAR

1574

FREE THE DOT ORDERS PLACED THIS YEAR



PURPLE CARE

COUNSELING APPOINTMENTS
INCREASED THIS YEAR BY



234%



WE ALSO SAW A **252%** INCREASE IN NEW USERS



USC NEWSWORTHY

“ We want to inspire and welcome in the next generation of students who will lead the USC into the future. Before we do that though, we have some stories to share.
– Callista Ryan, VP Communications & Public Affairs ”

Living the Reporter Dream: A Day in the Life of a USC Brand Journalism Coordinator by Anushka Goswami

I always wondered what it felt like to be Rory Gilmore, to interview people, take on articles, write my first by-line, and put my pen to power, or in this case, my keyboard to power. Walking into the first USC meeting is what I imagine it felt like to be Rory Gilmore, to be around an encouraging, challenging, and inspiring communications team. The day does not start until someone discusses their daily rituals from their first coffee of the day or how their bus ride was full of interesting people. The VP Communications will laugh, share their chaotic yet fulfilling day, and begin the meeting. The AVP Communications will share the meeting agenda, and the Brand Journalism Coordinators will take the floor to provide article updates, share their upcoming article and interview ideas, and ask for suggestions from Campaigns Coordinators, AVPs, and the Social Media Intern.

Writing articles for USC News is much like a tour of the USC. You start by discussing the key events and achievements of the student body and put your ideas into a compiled list of questions to ask your interviewee. You take your recorder and visit the President and VPs on the third Floor of UCC. The VP Student Support and Programming mentions the upcoming events their team has initiated for campus. The VP Finance and Governance talks about the benefits of Purple Care and how the USC prioritizes affordable and comprehensive healthcare for students. The VP External Affairs will create an engaging environment and display how their team continues to lobby at Queens Park and London Municipality to represent student interests. The VP University Affairs welcomes you into their office to discuss the upcoming policy papers they wrote, which advocate for an inclusive and diverse campus while aiming to provide students with the facilities and opportunities they truly deserve. The VP Communications will give you a warm hug and mention the upcoming communications projects that will inform the student body and connect them with USC programming, services and facilities. The President's office will be empty as they are spending their hours with students regarding the issues and concerns facing equity-deserving communities on campus.

You finish your interview, grab a spoke bagel (hopefully sourdough with red pepper), and meet up with your fellow Brand Journalism Coordinator who just finished interviewing with remarkable students around campus. You both sit at the Wave and transcribe student voices into a powerful and expressive article that aims to better inform the campus community regarding upcoming events, achievements, and the success of advocacy initiatives from the USC. Your AVPs will check up on you, give you an abundance of encouragement, and your VP will support you in the creative articles you write.

Being a Brand Journalism Coordinator bridges the gap between the USC and the student body while living the Rory Gilmore dream. The New York Times cannot be better than this, right?





WHO IS THE USC

“ *I believe in democracy, community, and representation, and I believe that progressive and equitable governance is one of our most important and useful tools to move closer to creating change in any community.* ”
– **Nathan Szierer**, VP Governance & Finance

The USC is for you and built by you.

Every year, the USC is led by students across all levels of the organization from representing their peers on USC Council, providing organizational oversight on the Board of Directors, and supporting the operations and programs of the USC as both full-time and part-time staff and as volunteers. Thank you so much to all of our incredible students for contributing to the student experience this year.

USC Coordinators, Associate Vice Presidents (AVPs), and Interns

“I got to play a central role of taking everything that’s going on and translate it into a medium that students can understand and easily access.” – Reagan Cockburn, Social Media Intern

All AVPs, Coordinators, and Interns bring so much energy, creativity, and passion to the USC each year.

Associate Vice Presidents (AVPs)

AVPs directly support a USC Executive in the execution of their portfolio, which allows the Executive and AVP to learn from one another to improve existing processes and give new perspectives to help benefit the student body at large.

Coordinators

Coordinators work to engage students in meaningful extracurricular pursuits, while supporting the programming interests and advocacy platforms of the USC Executive. As resource providers, service programmers, event planners, social educators, policy writers and creative designers, Coordinators contribute immensely to the overall student experience at Western.

Interns

Starting in June 2022 the USC will have seven full-time internship roles which will span various departments. Interns will have the opportunity to work on special projects in their respective areas, while contributing to improving the student experience for other Western students.

Council

“From student safety to accountability this council got it done.”—Ethan Chen, Social Science Councillor

Council is the governing body of the USC and is made up of student representatives who are elected by their peers to represent and advocate for their interests. Councillors come from all of the undergraduate faculties and professional schools, and are responsible for understanding the business of Council – suggesting changes to policies or initiatives as they see fit.

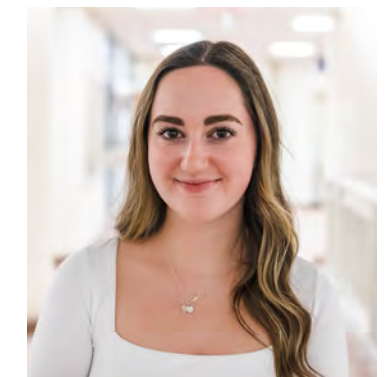
Below are some highlights from 2021–2022 Council:

“Meeting our incoming Arts and Humanities students during Orientation Week only further reaffirmed how proud and grateful I was to be part of this community. Now, as I finish my role and see those same first years moving up and becoming leaders themselves, I know that our community is in highly capable and passionate hands.”

—Jack Bradley, Arts and Humanities Students’ Council President

“As a member of Council, I had the opportunity to engage in important work about the place of Greek Life on our campus, while seeking to reduce discrimination as a member of the USC’s Anti-Racism Working Group.”—Adam Miller, Ivey Councillor

“Being on the USC this as a Councillor has been a tremendous opportunity. As a Huron student, representing an affiliate campus constituency, I was excited to be an active member on the Council floor to bring forward a unique and important perspective. Some highlights of my term were representing the USC at the OUSA Fall Conference, being elected as the Vice Chair of the University Affairs Standing Committee, forming countless friendships, and of course representing Huron, and supporting our greater Western community.”—Lexi Magder, Huron Councillor



Left: Ethan Chen, Social Science Councillor. **Middle:** Adam Miller, Ivey Councillor.

Right: Lexi Magder, Huron Councillor.

USC Board of Directors

The Board focuses on the business side of the USC and each year, they approve the Council's budget and assess any financial risks or opportunities. Other important tasks in their job description include developing strategic plans to assist the USC in fulfilling their obligations to undergraduate students, as well as participating in the development of the USC's organizational plan and annual review. Thank you to our incredible outgoing Board of Directors for their hard work.

Left to Right: Kenisha Arora, Iman Berry, Claire Balas, Rahul Sapra, Chris Harasym, Matthew Parkin, and Pensee Liang. **Not Pictured:** Zamir Fakirani and Vishal Vijay.

"Ultimately, significant strides have been made to open up the operations of Council to the broader student community so that they feel empowered to engage with the politics and governance that contributes to their student experience."

- Nathan Szierer, VP Governance & Finance



INTRODUCING

INTRODUCING: THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENT LEADERS

I hope that my time in this role inspired future generations of student leaders, and racialized leaders specifically, to see yourselves within these spaces.

– Eunice Oladejo, VP External Affairs

Student leaders pave the way for a better campus community each and every year. While positions change, and student leaders come and go, they create and define the student experience here at Western. However, there has been more turbulence than is typically expected with the impacts of COVID-19 and the myriad of crises our campus has faced. The USC knows it has been a tough year for students, yet we are so excited to see the next generation tackle these challenges with resilience and determination. The outgoing USC Executive wants to formally welcome the next generation of student leaders in the USC who will lead the USC's Board, Council, and Executive portfolios with Coordinators, Associates, and Interns. We know the next generation is built different and we are so excited to see what they do next.

Meet the USC’s Executive Team for 2022-2023



Ethan Gardner (he/him) is the USC President. Ethan holds a Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies in Consumer Behaviour and Psychology. He was a three-time Social Science Soph and most recently served as a Programming Assistant. He was elected at-large by students and his key priorities are student safety, advocacy, and community.



Cameron Cawston (she/her) is the USC’s Vice President of Student Support and Programming where she will oversee Orientation Week and all student facing programs and services. Cameron is completing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Thanatology. She has previously worked at The Spoke as a hostess, was a two-time residence Soph and Programming Assistant in Saugeen-Maitland Hall, and a Social Science Soph. Cameron was also last year’s Associate Vice President Student Events at the USC.



Lauren Jarman (she/her) is the USC’s Vice President University Affairs where she will lead all university facing advocacy. Lauren holds a Bachelor in Music Education. She previously served on the Faculty of Music Students’ Council as the VP Events, Public Arts Commissioner, and President. Lauren was also a Faculty of Music Tour/Audition volunteer, participated in the USC’s Mental Health Roundtable, and sat on the Students Awards Committee.



Keemia Abbaszadeh (she/her) is the USC’s Vice President Communications & Public Affairs where she leads all communication efforts while building relationships with internal and external stakeholders. Keemia holds a Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies in Consumer Behaviour and Spanish. She was previously the USC’s Early Outreach Coordinator, the Wellness Commissioner for the Undergraduate Engineering Society and an Off-Campus Soph. Keemia was also last year’s Associate Vice President Communications for the USC.





Jessica Look (she/her) is the USC's Vice President External Affairs where she advocates for Western students' concerns to external stakeholders, including all levels of government. Jessica holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & French Studies. She previously held positions on the Social Students Council, Social Science Soph team, and the Chinese Students' Association. Jessica was also a OUSA Delegate, Research Assistant with Western's Political Science department, and Research Analyst with the Leadership and Democracy Lab.



Ethan Biswurm (he/him) is the USC's Vice President Governance & Finance where he oversees the operation of Council and also manage the USC Clubs system and financial literacy programming. Ethan is completing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Game Development. He has previously volunteered with Theatre USC, was a USC Science Councillor, and member of the Off-Campus Soph team. Ethan was also a member of the Student Energy Club and recruited students for London Game Jam.









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