

# Executive Reports

## September 2020

Mitra Yakubi

President



### Executive Summary

Hellooo! Happy end of September. It's hard to believe that I'm already at the end of the fifth month of my term as President. It's been such a good experience so far I've been able to work on so many great initiatives with my team.



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This month I focused heavily on the Mental Health Peer Support Program, the Education for All Campaign and Transit. Besides the things listed earlier this month was the beginning of the academic year thus an important time for our incoming students as it was the month filled with orientation programmings. I used this opportunity to meet our first year students, their parents and families and inform them about their student union.

## Agenda

1. Mental Health Peer Support Program
2. Education for All Campaign
3. Free Transit
4. UTMSU Orientation - Cosmos'20
5. Parent and Family Orientation/International Student Orientation
6. Elections and Referenda Committee Meeting
7. Hiring
8. Meetings Attended

## Mental Health Peer Support Program

During this month we released the peer supporter applications, we've received quite a few applications and are now ready to launch our program for our students. This month, I met with the folks at Stella's place very often as we needed to finalize the dates of training, program overview and discuss the logistical details of the facilitation of sessions. We're also going to be releasing a job application for a Peer Support program coordinator as this will ensure the sustainability of the program throughout the years.

## Education For All Campaign

The UTMSU is determined to continue the fight for free and accessible education which is why we launched a new campaign called Education for All. The Education for All campaign emailer tool has now been used by 300+ people which means that we have sent out over 300 emails to the administration members. During this month we also had the opportunity to meet with UTM's senior administration and discuss our campaign and our



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demands. We have released our lobby document for this campaign on our website as well as a reference. We will also be meeting at the end of this month to discuss how the administration will act on each of our demands.

## Free Transit Planning

During this month I attended a few transit meetings with representatives from student unions across the GTA as well as representatives from TTC riders. In these meetings we specifically focused on transit issues related to TTC and Toronto, however we used this opportunity to call on provincial funding for public transit systems across the province. A statement which was co-signed by multiple organizations was also released and can be found on our website.

## UTMSU Orientation - Cosmos'20

The UTMSU held its first ever virtual orientation this year and this year we had 600+ attendees. Months of hard work really paid-off as Cosmos'20 was an absolute success, the orientation leaders and attendees made very valuable bonds. We also received feedback regarding how much folks enjoyed the programming and some even showed interest in our volunteering team as well as for the positions we have available in the Board of Directors for first year representatives.

## Parent & Family Orientation/International Student Orientation

Orientation is important not just for our incoming students but also their families and parents. As a panelist at the Parent and Family Orientation I had the opportunity to introduce the UTMSU to the families of students and answer important questions they had. We also released a powerpoint presentation for this programming which outlined the UTMSU resources.

This month we also collaborated with the International Education Centre (IEC) for the International Student Orientation. This programming was specifically organized for our international students and with 200+ attendees it was an absolute success.



## Elections & Referenda Committee Meeting

As you may or may not know the Fall By-Elections take place during the beginning of each academic year. This year the pandemic has set many challenges to our traditional way of conducting elections thus as the chair of the Elections and Referenda Committee I had to research alternative methods of conducting elections. We also hired the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officer for our fall by-elections.

## Hiring

This month we had the opportunity to hire a staff for the Campus Groups Coordinator position. It is extremely exciting for me as we now have a complete full time staff team. The new campus groups coordinator had the opportunity to transition into their role after receiving training from the executives and the executive director.

## Meetings Attended

Sep/1 - Interview for Campus Groups  
Sep/2 - Interview for CRO  
Sep/2 - Parent and Family Orientation  
Sep/3 - Transit Meeting  
Sep/3 - Meeting with Zoom representative  
Sep/3 - Interview for Campus Groups  
Sep/3 - Mitra x Mudassir x Grayce  
Sep/4 - EARC #3  
Sep/4 - Interview for Campus Groups  
Sep/4 - Discussion for Campus Groups

Sep/5 - International Student Orientation  
Sep/14 - Presidential Team Meeting  
Sep/14 - Check-in w/ VC's  
Sep/14 - Campus Affairs  
Sep/14 - Part time Staff Meeting  
Sep/15 - Campus Groups Training 2  
Sep/16 - Check-in w/Adiba  
Sep/16 - Transit Meeting  
Sep/17 - Check in w/Naveen  
Sep/17 - Get Experience Fair Prep  
Sep/17 - Get Experience Fair  
Sep/17 - Mitra x Mudassir x Grayce  
Sep/18 - Meeting w/Stella's  
Sep/18 - Team Meeting  
Sep/21 - Check-in w/VC's



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Sep/21 - Presidential Team Meeting  
Sep/22 - CFSON Constituency Meeting  
Sep/22 - Orientation Discussion  
Sep/22 - Lobby Prep  
Sep/23 - CFSON Constituency Meeting  
Sep/23 - Clubs Committee  
Sep/23 - Lobbying Meeting  
Sep/24 - Check-in w/ Naveen  
Sep/24 - Health and Safety Meeting  
Sep/24 - Mitra x Mudassir x Grayce

Sep/24 - GTA Coalition  
Sep/24 - Team Meeting  
Sep/25 - CFSON Constituency Meeting  
Sep/25 - Executive Committee  
Sep/28 - Budget Committee  
Sep/28 - Presidential Team Meeting  
Sep/28 - CUPE Presentation  
Sep/29 - Check-in w/Vc's  
Sep/29 - Check-in w/Mary  
Sep/30 - All out September 30th  
Sep/30 - Check in w/Adiba

Sincerely,

*Mitra Yakubi*

Mitra Yakubi (she/her)  
President





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# Fahad Dayala

Vice President Internal



## Executive Summary

Hello hello friends. Welcome back to school. I hope you all have had a great start to the semester, and are all set to do amazing things. At UTMSU, we can't wait to work with you all to do the amazing things we do.

This past month has been phenomenal. From having our first ever Virtual Orientation - Cosmos-20 for our amazing class of 2024, to meeting our UTM Administration to discuss inaccessible and unaffordable education. My team and I came up with unique ideas and ways to continue operating while adhering to the pandemic restrictions. We had our virtual SaugaFest. What used to be a crowded event with 100+ clubs tabling, was done through Instagram Lives. Our Food Centre continues to provide students with healthy food with curbside pickups. The UPass distribution is also continuing as we progress into the semester. With all this going on, I'm super excited to jump



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into October, and see what that brings. I wish you all a successful and safe semester!

## Agenda

1. Orientation - Cosmos'20
2. Services
3. Budgets
4. Fall Elections
5. Executive Video
6. Meetings Attended

## Orientation - Cosmos'20

The first week of September was absolutely memorable. We had our Virtual Orientation, which might sound boring when you hear it, but watching our froshies and leaders make the most of it was so beautiful. We had over 600+ attendees, and the positive feedback resulted in froshies being interested in volunteering at the UTMSU, and being a part of the Board of Directors as well. The virtual orientation provided us with a unique opportunity to connect with students on a more personal level. We talked about fun things, while also discussing important topics such as academic integrity, or the services available at the UTMSU. Overall, it was a great experience.

## Services

Along with my associate, we have come up with a few new potential services which we can add to our pool of existing services. We are also working on a range of new discounts available to students, which they can benefit from.

## Budgets

The Operating Budgets have been completed. Due to the pandemic, it was a very tough job to estimate and analyze the impact of it on our operations. Everyday, with new updates on the COVID19 situation, we had to adjust our financials accordingly. The pandemic has had an impact on our operations, specifically with regards to the Blind Duck, InfoBooth and the Duck Stop.



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Despite this, we continue to operate and provide our students with the best, because our students deserve the best. This entire process has been very insightful in terms of understanding the impact of the pandemic, and how to navigate during these different times.

## Fall Elections

We are going to have our UTMSU Fall Elections soon. These elections are mainly for our Division I Board of Directors, which are first year students at UTM, and for any other vacant positions at the board. This year the fall elections are going to be different as the regular in-person elections are unlikely to happen given the situation. Thus, the elections committee is working on alternative methods to provide students with a similar experience to get involved at the UTMSU. We also hired the Chief Returning Office and the Deputy Returning Officer for the elections. If you are interested in running for the available Board of Directors positions, I highly encourage you to reach out to us.

## Executive Video

This past month, we shot our executive video, which is a traditional introduction of the executives to their members. The video is a fun and interactive way to reach out to our membership and touch on some of the work we will be doing this year. If you have not yet seen the video, visit our Instagram @myutmsu right now!!!

## Meetings Attended

Aug 27 - Exec Video Shoot  
Aug 27 - Virtual Office Hours  
Aug 28 - Team Meeting  
Aug 28 - Orientation Management Committee  
Aug 31 - Sponsorship Meeting  
Aug 31 - EARC  
Aug 31 - Check-in with Hamid  
Sep 1 - Interview CGC  
Sep 2 - Interview CRO  
Sep 2 - Interview DRO

Sep 2 - Interview DRO  
Sep 3 - Interview CGC  
Sep 4 - Interview CGC  
Sep 4 - EARC Meeting  
Sep 4 - CGC Discussion  
Sep 9 - Comms Visioning w/ Mudassir  
Sep 10 - Meeting w/ Hamid  
Sep 11 - Lobby Prep  
Sep 11 - Team Meeting  
Sep 11 - Leader Appreciation





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Sep 15 - Campus Groups Training  
Sep 16 - Campus Groups Training  
Sep 16 - Meeting w/ Aroma Waxing  
Sep 17 - Get Experienced Fair  
Sep 18 - Team Meeting  
Sep 21 - Check-in w/ Hamid  
Sep 22 - CFSON Constituency Meeting  
Sep 22 - Orientation Management Meeting  
Sep 22 - Lobby Prep  
Sep 23 - Clubs Committee #3  
Sep 23 - Lobby Meeting  
Sep 24 - CFSON Caucus Meeting  
Sep 24 - Office H&S Meeting  
Sep 24 - GTA Coalition

Sep 24 - Team Meeting  
Sep 25 - CFSON Constituency Meeting  
Sep 25 - Executive Committee Meeting  
Sep 25 - Budgets  
Sep 28 - Budget Committee  
Sep 28 - Check-in w/ Hamid  
Sep 28 - CUPE Bargaining Presentation  
Sep 30 - All Out S30  
Oct 1 - Get Experienced Fair  
Oct 1 - Seminar Series  
Oct 1 - Team Meeting  
Oct 2 - Office Meeting

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fahad Dayala', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fahad Dayala (he/him)  
Vice President Internal

# Lily Pan

## Vice President External



## Executive Summary

September was a very exciting month because of all the programming for orientation. Though everything was happening virtually, which created a lot more uncertainties, things went better than expected. My words cannot express how much I appreciate our orientation committee, especially our coordinators. Besides, with the fall semester begins, time management becomes more important to all of us balancing between school and work. I hope everyone can have a very successful year!

## Agenda

1. UTMSU Frosh Orientation Week (Cosmos' 20)
2. UTMSU WeChat Chinese Orientation
3. Meetings Attended
4. Meetings Attended

## UTMSU Frosh Orientation Week (Cosmos'20)

Although virtual orientation is a new thing for everyone, the feedback I heard from froshies and leaders were great. Overall, the individual engagement was surprisingly high despite the fact that some of them were at a different time zone. A lot of froshies said they were able to gain the information they needed



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preparing first year at UTM while having fun. They were also amazed by the fine design of events such as the virtual escape room from the orientation committee. Cosmos' 20 was ASTRONOMICAL.

## UTMSU WeChat Chinese Orientation

WeChat Team hosted the Chinese Orientation on September 19<sup>th</sup> to the mandarin-speaking student community. Hearing that a lot of students are stressed about virtual classes, the event was more information based along with some ice breaking games. We introduced a lot of resources that would be available for them and invited some professors to give advice. The event was successful as we received quite a number of them reaching out to us about joining the WeChat team. We are glad that the event can help first-year international students to feel welcomed, and hope we can continue to be this kind of support to them throughout the year.

In addition, the application form for WeChat Team volunteer is currently available on our website [utmsu.ca/volunteer/](https://utmsu.ca/volunteer/). We would love to see you at the team.

## Meetings Attended

August 26 – 28	CFS Ontario General Meeting
August 27	Chinese Orientation Marketing discussion
August 28	Team meeting
August 31 – Sept 5	Virtual Frosh Orientation
August 31	EARC #2
September 4	EARC #3
September 4	Chinese Orientation meeting
September 9	Chinese Orientation Discussion
September 11	Communication Visioning Follow up Lobby Prep
September 12	WeChat team meeting
September 14	PT Staff meeting
September 15	Campus Group Training 2
September 16	Campus Group Training 2
September 17	Chinese Orientation Rehearsal
September 18	Chinese Orientation Rehearsal International Student Advocacy 'I Believe You' Team meeting



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September 19	Chinese Orientation
September 22	CFSON Constituency meeting Lobby Prep
September 23	CFSON Constituency Space UTMSU Lobby meeting
September 24	GTA Coalition meeting Team meeting
September 25	Executive Committee
September 28	CUPE Bargaining Presentation
September 29	Anti-Racism course updates
September 30	AOS30

# Noha Farawi

## Vice President Equity



## Agenda

1. All Out September 30
2. Bursaries
3. Green Grants
4. Divest Now
5. Sexual Violence Training
6. Equity Campaigns

## All Out September 30

The UTMSU, along with other individuals and groups, are taking part in a virtual strike from 11 AM - 7 PM EDT on September 30th to commemorate Orange Shirt Day and to strike against Anti-Black and Anti-Indigenous racism in our institutions

## Bursaries

Fall bursaries are now live and applications are due on October 5th. We have three bursaries this fall.

- 1) Needs-based Bursary
- 2) Child Care Bursary
- 3) UPass Accessibility Bursary





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## Green Grants

The UTMSU has allocated a fund to support students with any sustainability initiatives. This is not only for clubs and societies but also for anyone that has any sustainability initiatives they'd like to bring to campus.

## Divest Now

Our tuition money goes directly into investing in fossil fuels, which is one of the leading causes of climate change. This is not okay. That's why we're bringing the Divest Now campaign to UTM to lobby the administration to divest from fossil fuels.

## Sexual Violence Training

Our Part-Time staff are going to receive a sexual violence training from the Sexual Violence Prevention Centre. They are the last batch of staff that are going to receive it this semester.

## Equity Campaigns

The Equity Team and I are all still working on the Equity Handbook, Learning and Unlearning Sustainability Seminar Series, Food Centre, and much more that everyone should keep an eye out for.

# Anushka Sokhi

Vice President University Affairs



## Executive Summary

This month has been hectic and exciting! We finally had our virtual frosh and it was super successful! We also opened the student centre to the students for everything from executive office hours to UPass Pick Up, Blind Duck and Duck Stop have also resumed normal functioning. We also hired a new Campus Groups Coordinator, working alongside him to structure a plan for the upcoming year!

## Agenda

1. Cosmos'20
2. Academic Advocacy Campaign
3. Fairness For International Students' Campaign
4. Societies



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## 5. Meetings Attended

### Cosmos'20

A big and super exciting part of my term came to end in the beginning of this month when we had a super successful virtual orientation with also 600+ registered students attending! Overall it was a great experience and I feel very grateful to say that regardless of it being virtual we have a great first year batch who were equally as engaged and excited to know more about UTM and UTMSU!

### Academic Advocacy Campaign

The Know Your Academics Campaign is rolling steadily and along with our Academic Coordinator, I have been working on the Academic Advocacy Week and how the events for the same are going to look like! The week is planned for early November so keep a look out for that!

### Fairness For International Students Campaign

An additional campaign that my team and have been working on is the Fairness for International Students Campaign for the UTM campus, this campaign is a sister campaign to Education for All! Recently the UTMSU executive had the chance to meet with the members of the UTM Administration to discuss the demands of these campaign. We have also managed to circulate a emailer tool to our students and have had more than 300 students email our administration to see immediate change!

### Societies

This month, we hired a new Campus Group Coordinator. I have had multiple meetings with him and my associate, Deepti to set up additional introductory meetings with Societies. Additionally, we have also decided to set up weekly meetings to work on new projects that help the smooth functioning of Societies! Lastly we have also been working on the Bank Transfer Process for the societies.

### Meetings Attended

- Monthly UTMSU Office Meeting



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- CFS Constituency and Caucus Meetings
- Executive Committee Meeting
- Team Meeting weekly on Thursday
- Campus Group Trainings 1 and 2
- Anti-Racism Course Working Group Meeting
- Education for All Campaign Lobby Meeting with UTM Administration
- Committee on Standing Meeting
- Weekly Meeting with Deepti (Associate to VP UA)
- Meeting with Jihan – Biweekly (Academic Coordinator)
- International Student Advocacy Meeting with CFS and other SUs
- Meeting with the Office of the Registrar
- Meeting with Dean of Academics – Amrita
- All Out – September 30<sup>th</sup> Virtual Strike
- Board Meeting #6
- CUPE Bargaining Presentation
- Weekly ASAC Check-in with Felipe (Campus Group Coordinator) and Deepti (Associate to VP UA)

# Tarwah Afrah

## Vice President Campus Life



## Executive Summary

Goodbye Summer! Hello School Year. As the fall semester begins it is again time to adjust once more to a new normal. I am so excited to take on new tasks and take campus life to a new level. It is extremely important to me as well as my team to ensure that we offer various programming for our members.

Through programming we intend to build a sense of community in this virtual world. It also has been important to myself as well the executive time to launch some new campaigns to let our members know we have them in our goals and that we will represent them in rooms where students are not always welcome! We also released our executive video, check out the amazing video on our social media platforms!

## Agenda

1. Orientation
2. Sauga Fest
3. Campus Groups
4. Meetings Attended





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## Orientation

In the past month we had the opportunity to wrap up COSMOS '20. Our first virtual orientation was able to reach 600 first year students. It was an awesome opportunity to create awareness with our incoming student on what the UTMSU does, as well as how folks can get involved. Orientation was an awesome experience with the support of the orientation committee as well as the leaders it was one for the books.

## Sauga Fest

Sauga Fest was a take on the traditional clubs week. The purpose of this week long event was to introduce our amazing campus groups to our membership. Sauga fest took place on instagram where campus groups were given the opportunity to go on Instagram Live with the UTMSU representative and spread valuable information about themselves and how folks can get involved with them. There also was an instagram post portion of sauga fest that relayed the same information.

## Campus Groups

This month recognition packages have been completed, and many of our campus groups are ready for 2020-2021 academic year. It has been wonderful getting in contact with these groups and seeing their plans for the upcoming school year in such a difficult time, I look forward to discovering different ways the UTMSU can serve as a support system for our campus groups! We also had the opportunity to recognize several new clubs as well as welcome our campus groups coordinator Felipe Nagata. Together we worked on the delivery of campus groups training 2, relaying important information to our campus groups as well as giving folks an Anti Oppression training.

## Meetings Attended

With Love,

*tarwah afrah*