



# University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union

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Annual Report 2020





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UTM Students' Union (UTMSU)

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2020 Annual General Meeting

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# Executive Welcome

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2020 Annual General Meeting for the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU). Since last November, the UTMSU has been busy providing events, cost-saving services, and crucial advocacy to address the difficulties of being a student in post-secondary. We are excited to reflect on and share this past year's work with you, while also looking ahead into the future as we collectively set the direction of the organization for the next 12 months.

In the past six months, we've dealt with a very difficult and unforeseen circumstance due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the reality of a pandemic comes different challenges but we're here to remind our members that their students' union is here to provide support and resources throughout this time. The UTMSU is currently providing all of its services, events and campaigns both virtually and when need be, we also provide in-person support to meet the needs of students at UTM. The union has successfully delivered events such as Instagram Live sessions with your UTMSU executives, Pride Art Contest, That's my UTMSU: Trivia and Movie Edition, SaugaFest, VolunTEAM Cafe: Games Night Edition, Halloweek and Academic Advocacy Week. We've also launched several campaigns including; Know your Academics, Me in Mental Health, Fairness for International Students, United for Equity, Consent is Mandatory/No Means No and Education for All. Additionally, the UTMSU has continued to determine ways in which services can be provided to students despite the pandemic. Services that are currently offered to members include; Off-Campus Housing support, Food Centre, Health and Dental Plan, U-pass, Tax Clinic, Info Booth and Graduation Photography. The UTMSU also successfully held their first care package deliveries in the summer where we delivered snacks and stationary to students across the greater toronto area and this is an initiative that will also take place later this semester.

Together, we've made so many positive changes on this campus and we don't plan on stopping anytime soon. We look forward to supporting members and working alongside you over the next six months to ensure that student issues are placed at the forefront of UofT and the provincial government's priorities. Both domestic and international students deserve a system of postsecondary school education that is accessible and affordable so we will continue to hold the university accountable until we can achieve barrier free access to get Education for All .

The students united will never be defeated.

On behalf of the UTMSU,

Mitra Yakubi  
President

Noha Farawi  
VP Equity

Anushka Sokhi  
VP University Affairs

Fahad Dayala  
VP Internal

Lily Pan  
VP External

Tarwah Afrah  
VP Campus Life





From left to right: Noha Farawi (Vice President Equity), Lily Pan (Vice President External), Mitra Yakubi (President), Tarwah Afrah (Vice President Campus Life), Fahad Dayala (Vice President Internal), Anushka Sokhi (Vice President University Affairs).



# About the UTMSU

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU), formerly known as the Erindale College Students' Union, is your local students' union, representing over 15,000 full-time and part-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM).

The UTMSU is a non-profit organization that abides by the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). UTMSU's constitution and bylaws that are set by and for members. The day-to-day operations of the organization are managed by the Executive Committee, full-time and part-time staff and a board of directors.

The UTMSU board of directors is comprised of the Executive Committee, two (2) First-Year directors, eleven (11) Directors At-Large, two (2) Part-Time directors and one (1) Professional Faculties director for the Medical Academy of Mississauga (MAM).

## *Board of Directors*

### *Division 1 - First-Year Directors:*

Crystal Cheng,  
Ayesha Dayala

### *Division 2 - Directors At-Large:*

Aditya Chopra,  
Alvin Jeffrey Stanislaus,  
Aysha Qureshi,  
Lai Wei,  
Laiba Khan,  
Liza Nasir,  
Sameer Naderi,  
Shehrabano Ali,  
Taarika Salariya,  
Xiaodan Zhou,  
Yiming Chen

### *Division 3 - Part-Time Director:*

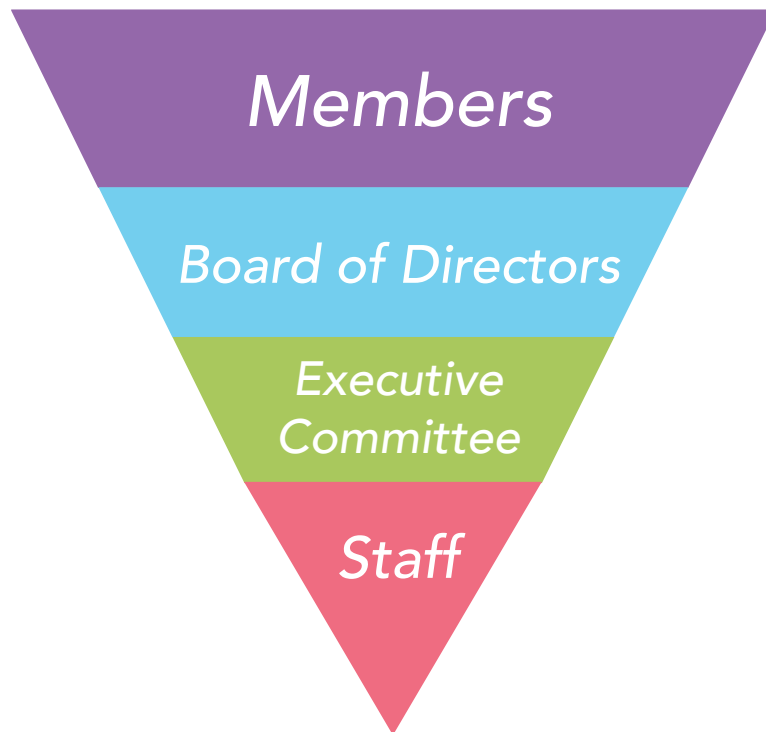
Vacant

### *Division 4 - MAM Director:*

Vacant



# Structure of the UTMSU



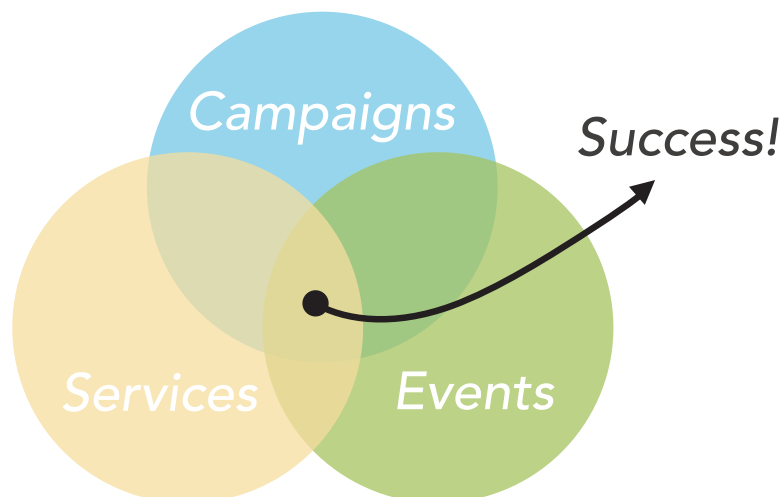


# Strategic Vision

The UTMSU plays a key role on campus by supporting members and advocating for their rights. The UTMSU believes in a free, accessible and high-quality post-secondary education system for all.

To accomplish this goal, the UTMSU provides cost-saving services, implements campaigns and mobilizes members, provides alternative policies, proposals, and influences key decision-makers to improve student life.

The UTMSU hosts events throughout the year to promote healthy living, community, and engagement amongst members.





# Campaigns and Advocacy



# Campaigns and Advocacy

## Education For All

The Education for All campaign was launched to persuade the University of Toronto Mississauga administration, University of Toronto Governing council and political leaders to listen and make funding for an accessible and inclusive post-secondary education a priority. High tuition fees have discriminatory and detrimental impacts on students. Considering the fact that in Ontario, students are faced with the highest tuition fees in the country and the financial burden that accompanies them which leaves many students with huge amounts of debt for decades.

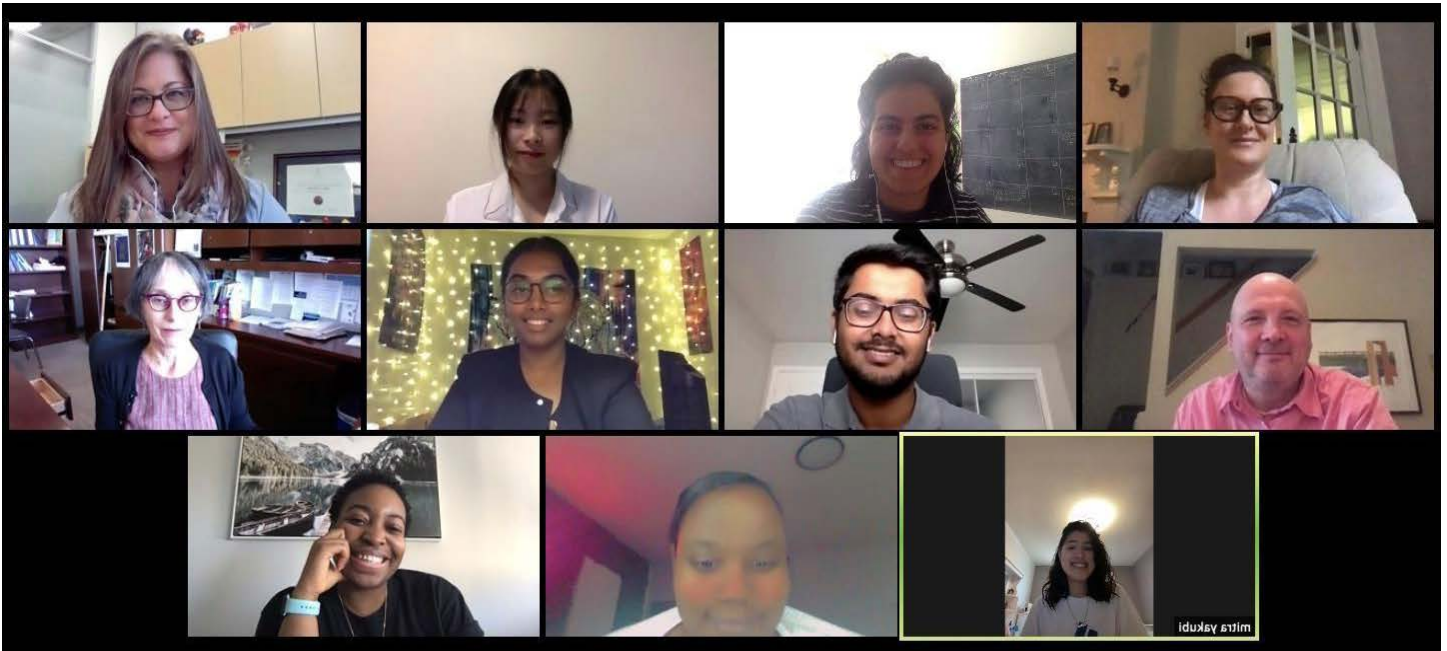
Post-secondary education demands an enormous financial investment and many times, students are pressured to choose educational fields according to what they can afford, rather than what they want to study. As tuition fees increase every passing year, this system suggests that the province and institutions are interested in the wealthiest students, rather than the brightest students. These barriers are made worse by the lack of support and services from institutions.

The UTMSU believes that it's time for the University to listen to the needs of their students which is why the Education for All campaign was launched.

The Education for All campaign has seven demands and they are as follows:

1. Immediate Reduction of Tuition Fees for All Students
2. Fairness for International Students
3. Increased Non-Academic Scholarships for All Students
4. Increased Awards and Grants for Indigenous and Black Students
5. Increased Paid Experiential Learning and Internship Positions for All Departments
6. Stand-Alone Mental Health Counsellors Within All Departments
7. Improvement of Accessibility Services

In the past few months, the UTMSU has also worked closely with other unions across the University of Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) to continue lobbying efforts. Earlier this term was the successful launch of an emailer tool where students were given the opportunity to voice their concerns by sending an email to the members of the UTM administration, UofT President and the University of Toronto Governing Council. Over 400 students have sent an email requesting for more accessible and inclusive education for all.



Education for All Lobby Meeting with Administration: UTM Vice President and Principal Alexandra Gillespie, the UTM Dean of Student Affairs and Assistant Principal Mark Overton, the Registrar and Director of Enrolment Management Loretta Neebar, and the UTM Vice President Academic and Dean, Amrita Daniere.



# Campaigns and Advocacy

For the Education for All campaign, testimonials from students were collected to showcase the difficulties that students face, and are currently a part of the Lobby document to continue to raise awareness for the campaign. To view the lobby document please visit the UTMSU website: [utmsu.ca/education-for-all/](https://utmsu.ca/education-for-all/).

Additionally, the UTMSU executives had the opportunity to have lobbying meetings with the members of the UTM administration to discuss the campaign and its demands in detail. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for January where senior UTM administrators will outline how they plan to respond to each demand. In the meantime, the UTMSU will continue expanding the campaign by holding a series of workshops, events, and a town hall.

The first Education for All Town Hall is scheduled to take place on November 30, 5 to 7 p.m. It is highly encouraged that members of the UTMSU attend the Town Hall as it is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the campaign from their local representatives and representatives across the country. During this event there will be a feedback session where students can tell their Students' Union what they want to see next from the campaign.

For questions related to the Education For All campaign or to join the campaign please contact our President, Mitra Yakubi, at [president@utmsu.ca](mailto:president@utmsu.ca).



## Fairness for International Students

This year, the UTMSU revamped the Fairness for International Students Campaign, which is now the sister campaign to Education for All. This campaign focuses on educating the community on International students rights and opportunities. The campaign discusses the importance of access to OHIP, grants, and a more accessible education in Canada. Additionally, a lobby document for the Fairness for International Students Campaign was created to highlight the specific experiences that international students face while attending post-secondary education. The Lobby document can be found on the UTMSU website: [utmsu.ca/wp-content/uploads/](https://utmsu.ca/wp-content/uploads/).

The Demands for this Campaign are:

1. Immediate Reduction of tuition fees for all students.
2. OHIP for International Students.
3. Increase funding and scholarships for international students.

For questions related to the Fairness for International Students Campaign or to get involved in this campaign please contact our Vice President, University Affairs, Anushka Sokhi, at [vpua@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpua@utmsu.ca).

## Food Services

The UTMSU believes that campus food services should always be accessible to students, meaning that our members should not be forced to choose between education and food. The UTMSU is advocating for better food security on campus. This consists of the affordability, availability, as well as improving the quality of the UTM food service.

The campaign itself has been research and consultation heavy. In terms of research, it focuses on studying the information that is released by the UTM Hospitality & Rental services and food services at other postsecondary institutions. For consultation, surveys were conducted with campus groups (clubs and societies) and general members respectively, initiated a petition, and discussed with students at the UTMSU commissions. In addition, members of

# Campaigns and Advocacy

the UTMSU team sit on the Food Services Advisory Committee which allows us to directly forward the feedback we have received from our membership to the UTM administration.

For any questions or inquiry regarding the current food services at UTM, please contact our Vice-President, External, Lily Pan at [vpexternal@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpexternal@utmsu.ca).

## ME in Mental Health

The Me in Mental Health Campaign was revamped this past summer to promote mental wellbeing on campus. As part of this initiative, the UTMSU delivered care packages that had self-care products and a list of resources internal and external to UTM that students can access for support. During this time, the UTMSU provided consent and mental health training to all staff, volunteers, and Orientation leaders as it is crucial to educate members on mental health and wellbeing. Throughout these sessions, important resources that are available for students at UTM and across U of T were highlighted.

Additionally, it is understood that here (and virtually) at UTM there is a lack of mental health resources and support which is why the UTMSU focused efforts on creating a new service for students by students in collaboration with [Stella's Place](#) - The Mental Health Peer Support Program.

Lastly, the Me in Mental Health Campaign initiatives included exam destressor events; some of which are held in collaboration with campus groups.

For questions related to the Me in Mental Health campaign or the Mental Health Peer support program please contact our President, Mitra Yakubi, at [president@utmsu.ca](mailto:president@utmsu.ca).

## United for Equity

The United for Equity campaign aims to challenge all forms of discrimination and oppression on campus, in communities, and in student organizing spaces. Equity campaigns shouldn't stop because we're virtual now. The equity team has decided that we are going to take the educational approach to our campaigns this year. We started off by launching

the United for Equity definitions. Equity terms are usually inaccessible, that's why we're taking the time to define key terms on our social media. These definitions are posted weekly on our social media. In addition, we launched a Unlearning and Learning Sustainability: Seminar Series and the Equity Handbook that will both be discussed separately later on in this report.



## WUSE

The World University Service of Canada (WUSC) is a leading Canadian non-profit organization in international development that is committed to building a more equitable and sustainable world. As a UTM student, you contribute \$1.93 per semester into the WUSC levy for the local program at UTM.

WUSC's primary campaign is the Student Refugee Program (SRP) which is a refugee resettlement program. Every year UTM students help resettle one student to our campus. Since 2008, UTM students have successfully resettled thirteen students. The UTMSU has a local WUSC committee that works to resettle the student, while also planning events for refugee awareness and women's education week.

For questions related to the WUSC Program or Committee please contact our Vice President External, Lily Pan, [vpexternal@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpexternal@utmsu.ca) or the WUSC Committee [wusc@utmsu.ca](mailto:wusc@utmsu.ca).



# Events



# Events



## Frost Week

Frost Week consisted of a full week of events to welcome students back after the holidays, as well as welcome new students to campus. All events were held in the Student Centre. To start the week off, there was a Winter Carnival where students were able to browse campus groups, warm-up with some hot chocolate, and fill their sweet tooth on cotton candy! Next up was Churros and Chill where students were able to play board games and warm up with Lattes and Hot Chocolate. Lastly, was the Icy Arcade to students! From Basketball to dance dance revolution, students played arcade games in the Student Centre! The campus life team is currently working on plans for the January 2021 frost week.



## Chinese New Year Hot Pot Night

The iconic Chinese New Year Hotpot Night was held by the UTMSU WeChat Team at the end of January. This event's focus was to bring together the Chinese community to celebrate one of the most important festivals of Chinese culture and provide students a sense of community. The event took place in the Blind Duck Pub where students were provided with all you can eat hotpot food, performances and raffles for a flat entry fee. The event was a huge success, with over 100 people in attendance. All students were welcomed to the event regardless of their cultural or ethnic backgrounds.



## Culture Fest

This was a fun-filled week of events that took place at the end of January. There were 11 cultural clubs at the cultural pavilion; all clubs were displaying their cultural activities, and clothes. The event had cultural music playing and the energy was amazing! Following this, was the annual Culture Fest showcase. Many students had the opportunity to showcase their talent. Additionally, there was free food from our Blind Duck Pub. Lastly, Culture Fest had its Food Fest. The Student Centre was packed with students tasting different dishes from all around the world. The overall week was very successful.



## Montreal Reading Week

During Winter reading week in February, the UTMSU hosted one of the highest anticipated events of the year - the Montreal Reading Week Trip. An external company, TNT, was used to organize the Montreal Reading Week trip. The trip consisted of over 150 attendees; UTM students stayed in Montreal for four days and participated in activities including sightseeing tourist attractions such as Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal, night activities, and more!



# Events



## The Golden Gala

The UTMSU's first-year initiative presented The Golden Gala (our first-year formal) on the 28th of February. First-year students were able to spend a night full of dancing, food, and making memories with their fellow peers at a beautiful banquet hall. Students enjoyed a 3-course meal while celebrating their academic year-end.



## Black History Month

Black History Month was a success! With the help of some wonderful clubs like Caribbean Connection, Black Literature Club, the Black Students' Association, and volunteers, students were able to attend a month of necessary conversations about pressing issues that Black students and the Black community deal with on a daily basis. Throughout the month of February, students were able to participate in events such as Opening Ceremonies, three Buy Black events where local Black businesses brought materials to the UTM Student Centre, a Paint Night, BHM Brunch and participate in events that discussed a range of issues from Blackness and Mental Health to love, sex, and relationships.



## Trashion Show

The Trashion Show was held in early March and was a wonderful success! Creatives For A Change, Zero Waste UTM, Greenwood and UTMSU hosted A Fashion and Art show that aimed to promote environmental sustainability during the UTM Sustainability Week. The event's theme was Rebellion, Revolt against the wasteful fast fashion industry! With over 50 people in attendance, it was a wonderful event with an energetic crowd.



## Xpression Against Oppression

Due to COVID-19 and the campus closure in late March, the annual eXpressions Against Oppression events were cancelled. The events were supposed to take place in the last week of March; focusing on tackling forms of oppression, while also discussing how these oppressions can intersect with one another.

# Events



## Covid-19 Care Packages

In the summer semester, the UTMSU prepared and delivered care packages filled with self-care products as well as school stationery such as notebooks, pens, highlighters, and lanyards. Over 150 care packages were successfully delivered to students all across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) including Mississauga, Toronto, Brampton, Oakville, Milton, and Scarborough. The care package deliveries were enjoyable and the hope is to have a few more sessions of this service throughout the year. This initiative was conducted to encourage self-care and mental wellbeing during these difficult times as students were just learning to navigate the pandemic.



## Indigenous History Month

Throughout the month of June the UTMSU ran an educational social media campaign to debunk myths, provide resources, and educate the student body about the Indigenous History Month. In addition to this campaign, on June 26, the UTMSU hosted the Indigenous in Post-Secondary panel discussion with two remarkable speakers, Alannah McKay and Jaime Kearns, from the student movement. This panel focused on breaking down stereotypes and myths while discussing the realities experienced by Indigenous students within the post-secondary education system.



## Pride Month

In June the UTMSU hosted a Pride Art Contest on Resilience in Pride. Students submitted the most beautiful pieces of creative work submitted, that can still be viewed on the UTMSU website: [utmsu.ca/pride-art-contest/](https://utmsu.ca/pride-art-contest/). There were three winners chosen for the contest and received prizes for their work. Additionally, the UTMSU, the Equity and Diversity Office, QTBIPOC Sauga, and the Scarborough Campus Students' Union hosted a QTBIPOC panel As You Are on June 16. A space for members of the community to celebrate QTBIPOC (Queer & Trans Black, Indigenous and people of colour) Youth in the Wider GTA. Lastly, for the month of Pride, the UTMSU compiled a resource list for LGBTQ2S+ students and shared this widely.



## That's My UTMSU: Movie Nights

This series of virtual movie night events took place throughout the summer of 2020. As a result, the UTMSU held three movie nights. The movie nights were intended to encourage students to take a few hours of their day to destress and watch feel-good movies with their peers.

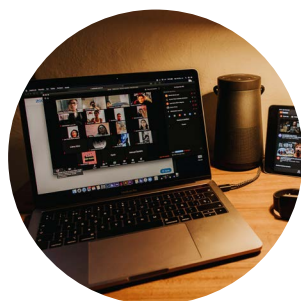


# Events



## Open Mic Night

Understanding that most of the students were struggling with human interactions due to the pandemic and lockdown, the UTMSU hosted the Open Mic Night in July as a platform for students to show their talents and perform to the UTM community from any part of the world through IG Live. The majority of the students who participated played instruments and sang.



## Study and Chill

Studying for online courses can be overwhelming and lonely. As a result, the UTMSU held three study sessions over Zoom throughout the summer semester. Each of these sessions were 4 hours with at least one executive on the call. Students who attended were able to chill and study, as well as ask questions.



## Exam Destressors

The UTMSU hosted exam destressors during the fall, winter and summer exam periods. December 2019 destressors included holiday-themed activities like cookie decorating, ugly Christmas sweater making and gingerbread house decorating. Another successful destressor that took place in collaboration with the Erindale Biology Society, was the animal shows. The UTMSU also gave out free coffee outside of the Student Center and provided free late-night dinners to save students money. Currently, the UTMSU is planning what the exam destressors will look like this December.



## Cosmos'20 Orientation Week

Orientation is the largest UTMSU event and this year was no different! Even though the UTMSU was unable to hold Orientation events in-person, Cosmos'20 was the first virtual frosh in UTMSU history! This year, the theme for Orientation was Cosmos'20 which focused on constellations, and how we can all "reach for the stars". The Orientation team worked extremely hard to plan and organize a series of virtual events held during the first week of September. The week consisted of academic workshops, campus groups introduction, group activities, wonderful performances and mind blowing illusionist show. Incoming students were able to learn about all the services offered to them by the UTMSU as well as tips and tricks to being successful in their academic endeavours. Cosmos'20 was out of this world!

# Events



## International Student Orientation

The International Student Orientation was held in collaboration with the International Education Centre (IEC). There were over 200 participants from around the world, where students were introduced to the UTMSU and the IEC. The UTMSU had the opportunity to highlight the campaigns, services, and events provided and highlight how students can get involved with their Students' Union. The session had an interactive Kahoot game played, a Q&A section, and a panel with international students who shared their experiences with the incoming students. Overall the event was well attended and attendees provided positive feedback.



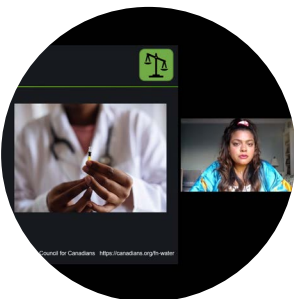
## Chinese Student Orientation

The UTMSU WeChat Team has been holding this Chinese Orientation for years. It is primarily for mandarin speaking students, helping them adapt to the new environment and making friends. This year, it was presented virtually via Zoom. It included ice-breaking games, an information session, and messages from professors. Considering that a lot of the students might not have the chance to come to Canada yet, a vlog was also made to show them a glance of university life.



## Sauga Fest

Sauga Fest is the first event of the academic school year in September. It intends to reintroduce all of the fantastic campus groups to members. Due to the pandemic, Sauga Fest was entirely virtual. Over 100 campus groups took part in the club's week, which featured an Instagram takeover. Campus groups were invited to participate in an Instagram Live with the UTMSU and take part in a Q&A. In order to raise awareness of upcoming events, open executive positions, as well as gain membership. Campus groups who opted out of Instagram Live were able to send photos, videos and descriptions of their group to post on the UTMSU page.



## Learning and Unlearning Sustainability

The Learning and Unlearning Sustainability: Seminar Series kicked-off this September. Each month the Seminar Series discusses a different topic that focuses on educating students on equity and sustainability. The first series in September was presented by Riley Yesno on the topic of Promoting Indigenous Language. Then in October, the seminar was presented by Professor Leanne De Souza on the topic of Discrimination in Health Care. Both seminars were well attended and were extremely educational. The next Seminar in November is being held on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The speaker, Carol Bilson, will be discussing the topic of Ending Violence Against Women. Keep an eye out each month for upcoming Seminars throughout the year.



# Events



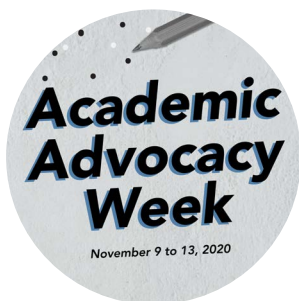
## Virtual Farmers Market

Who loves Fresh Products? We do! The UTMSU was excited to continue its tradition of providing students with healthy, locally grown, and sustainable food options through our Virtual Farmers' Markets! Eating healthy and locally is an amazing way to support locally grown foods and farmers and help maintain your mental and physical well being by nourishing your body! Feel free to visit the market on our website: [utmsu.ca/virtual-farmers-market/](https://utmsu.ca/virtual-farmers-market/).



## Halloweek

This year the UTMSU got in the Halloween spirit and hosted three days worth of horrifying fun events throughout the last week of October. The spooky season started on October 28 with the event Fright Night, a virtual scary movie night, where attendees could video chat and watch the movie *Insidious*. On October 29, Ghouls Night-In was the next event where students were able to work on a scary murder-mystery escape room. Finally, a trick-or-treat session was held at the sUTM Student Centre where the UTMSU was able to have curbside pick-up for members to get amazing treats from their student union and merchandise while listening to great music. Additionally, the spooky week had two contests where members were allowed to compete for best jack-o-lantern carving and Halloween costumes.



## Academic Advocacy Week

The UTMSU hosted their annual Academic Advocacy Week during the week of November 9th - 13th, alongside UTM's campus partners. During this week we had interactive presentations and workshops from The Academic Integrity Unit: Office of the Dean, The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC), The International Education Center (IEC), and Downtown Legal Services (DLS). This week's presenters discussed academic misconduct, academic offences and appeals, tips and resources to uphold academic integrity as well as student's academic rights. The goal of this week was to increase awareness about academic misconduct, academic integrity, student's academic rights and resources that are available to students.

# Services



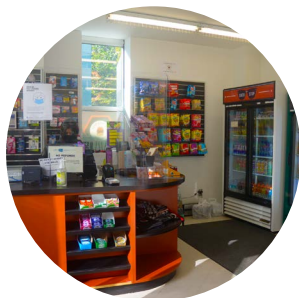


# Services



## The Blind Duck Pub

The Blind Duck Pub is home to UTM's only Halal restaurant. Students pay 3.25\$ for The Blind Duck levy which allows the service to run at student-friendly prices. The Pub offers a variety of options for students to choose from ranging from breakfast items to snacks and dinner items. It is also the only place on campus where students can buy and consume alcohol with their meals. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, The Blind Duck pub was one of the services that was affected. The Blind Duck Pub has had to reduce the operating hours, number of staff employed and menu offerings. If you have questions or suggestions regarding The Blind Duck Pub please email our Vice President, Internal, Fahad Dayala at [vpinternal@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpinternal@utmsu.ca) or our General Manager, Retail Operations Coordinator at [shane@utmsu.ca](mailto:shane@utmsu.ca).



## The Duck Stop

The Duck Stop Convenience Store opened in 2015 and has been a staple for students ever since. We ensure that The Duck Stop is stocked with snacks, drinks, over-the-counter drugs and even weather-appropriate commodities such as beanies and umbrellas. Due to the current circumstances of Covid-19, the Duck Stop is closed and will re-open for business in the following semester. To accommodate, various snacks and drinks have been moved to the Blind Duck Pub at discounted rates for students to consume. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Duck Stop please email our Vice President, Internal, Fahad Dayala at [vpinternal@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpinternal@utmsu.ca).



## Graduation Photos

The UTMSU provides all UTM graduates with the opportunity to have their photo taken professionally for their respective Graduating Class Composite. Included in the photo sessions are a minimum of nine unique digital online proofs and a copy of the class composite. To ensure accessibility and flexibility, new sessions are added weekly to accommodate the needs of graduating students.

Due to the campus closure in March, appointments for the Spring 2020 graduate photos from March to June were postponed and then rescheduled. Class Compositions for the academic year of 2019-2020, Spring 2020 and Fall 2020, are tentatively scheduled to be printed by late November. If you have questions regarding Graduate Photos please email our Vice President, Internal, Fahad Dayala at [vpinternal@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpinternal@utmsu.ca).



## ISIC

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is free for all students who are members of The Canadian Federation of Students. The ISIC has many benefits including domestic and international discounts at Greyhound, ViaRail, Softmoc, Apple and more. Students can get a card for free at [isiccanada.ca/cfsfcee](https://isiccanada.ca/cfsfcee).

# Services



## Health and Dental Plan

UTMSU provides affordable and comprehensive health and dental coverage to over 12,963 full-time members at UTM. Before September 2019, this service fee was collected by UTMSU and then disbursed to the University of Toronto Students Union (UTSU) to administer the service through Student Care. Given the separation of the UTMSU from UTSU in April 2019, UTMSU was able to develop and administer its own health and dental coverage. In conjunction with the Board of Directors, the UTMSU selected Green Shield Canada as our new health and dental insurance provider for 2019 and onwards. The plan coverage remains the same from the previous year to allow us to collect and analyze data and build better plans in the upcoming years.

Based on our 2019 plan usage review, we saw that a large proportion of our post-secondary students were prescribed antidepressants. The mental health and wellbeing of our students is our priority, which is why we have expanded the efforts of our Me in Mental Health campaign. Additionally, Green Shield Canada has contributed to providing accessible virtual health specifically for mental wellbeing. This can be seen through their partnership with MindBeacon for Mental Health, a guided digital therapy experience which is now available free of charge to support Ontarians during COVID-19.

In response to international travel restrictions, the UTMSU alongside Green Shield Canada have offered international students at UTM the option of dis-enrolling from the UTMSU health and dental plans for the 2020-2021 academic year. Meaning, students that are unable to study within Canada for the 2020-2021 academic year have the option to be exempt from these plans. However, all returning international students for the following year will be added back into these plans. By being able to administer our own health and dental plan, we are better equipped to serve our members and support them with any questions. Our Health and Dental Coordinator can be found in Room 116 of the UTM Student Centre Building and if you have questions regarding the Health and Dental Plans please email [health@utmsu.ca](mailto:health@utmsu.ca).



## Printing

As a part of our cost-saving services to our members, the UTMSU provides the cheapest printing and photocopying on campus. We charge \$0.06 cents for single-side or \$0.05 for double-sided black and white printing and \$0.12 for single-side or \$0.10 for double-sided coloured printing. This gives students the ability to print their assignments and readings in an affordable fashion. In addition, we maintain a policy of printing on both sides of a sheet to ensure sustainability. In the past years, we have had 358,919 pages printed at the Student Centre.

In order to make our printing services more accessible, we purchased new printing machines and installed new software to allow students to print from their laptops and phones. Students can now login-in online to add or manage the funds available in their account. This has helped to streamline the printing process and maximize efficiency. In the upcoming year, we hope to build a new print centre with new services such as binding, laminating and scanning.



# Services



## U-Pass Program

The Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) is a program offered through the UTMSU in partnership with the City of Mississauga. It allows undergraduate students to freely travel in Mississauga via Miway freely by paying a fee for either their Fall/Winter terms or the Summer term. Nearly 13,000 students pick up their U-Pass from the UTM Student Centre every year. Besides improving access to transit, this program is also a step towards reducing our carbon footprint. The UTMSU has successfully negotiated an extension to the U-Pass contract for the next three years with the Mississauga Transit provider, MiWay.

Given the implications of COVID-19, the UTMSU was successful in negotiating a mailing option for accessible distribution of U-Passes during closure periods. Upon further negotiation, UTMSU and the City of Mississauga are exploring the option of offering UTM students a monetary rebate. The City of Mississauga and their Board of Directors will be voting on implementing this rebate for the end of the Fall semester. Students will be updated accordingly. If you have questions regarding the U-Pass Program, please email our Vice President, Internal, Fahad Dayala at [vpinternal@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpinternal@utmsu.ca) or the U- Pass Program coordinator at [upass@utmsu.ca](mailto:upass@utmsu.ca).



## Discounts

The UTMSU provides a variety of discounts codes and discount coupons to students so they can save money. Current discounts that are available include, \$10 Boston Pizza coupons worth \$20 in-store, discounted Cineplex tickets, Classic Bowling tickets, and more. In recent months, discounts that have been added include a 50% discount code on Dominos' pizzas, and a 20% discount on services at the Aroma Waxing Clinic. These tickets are available at the Info Booth inside the Students' Centre. A detailed list of available discounts can be found at: [utmsu.ca/service/discounts/](https://utmsu.ca/service/discounts/).

Due to the current pandemic, most of the UTMSU discounts are unavailable, as the restrictions do not allow business to operate at their normal capacity. To accommodate for that, the UTMSU is looking for additional discounts that can be provided to students. If you have any questions regarding the discounts, please email our Vice President, Internal, Fahad Dayala at [vpinternal@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpinternal@utmsu.ca).



## Bursaries

The UTMSU is committed to advocating for a free and accessible education and firmly believes in assisting students who are in need of financial assistance. As such, the UTMSU offers bursaries to all UTM students. Depending on the number of students applying for the bursary and those who are approved, the range of bursaries a student may receive varies. Over the last year, the UTMSU was able to distribute \$67,000 in bursaries. The three bursaries offered are a general needs-based bursary, childcare bursary, and a U-PASS accessibility grant. Accessing education is hard for many, that is why it is essential that the UTMSU always offer bursaries while fighting for free and accessible education for all. If you have questions regarding the Bursaries Program please email our Vice President, Equity, Noha Farawi at [vpequity@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utmsu.ca).

# Services



## Green Grants

The UTMSU believes the ideas and dreams of students should not be limited to the size of their wallets. We provide Project Grants as an opportunity for students or groups to receive partial or full funding to realize projects, host events, or undertake other creative initiatives that would otherwise be unattainable due to financial barriers. Our goal is to create opportunities that benefit the UTM community as a whole. Green Grants are available to any student, club or society that need financial support with a Sustainability Initiative. If you have questions regarding the Green Grants Program please email our Vice President, Equity, Noha Farawi at [vpequity@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpequity@utmsu.ca).



## Mental Health Peer Support Program

The Mental Health Peer Support Program is a new service that is currently under development and is a project held in collaboration with Stella's Place. The UTMSU understands that here at UTM there is a lack of mental health resources and support available to students which is why we are currently developing this program. The program's goal is to provide a service that meets the needs of students. It is a priority to provide the best support possible, which is why the UTMSU and Stella's Place have teamed up to train volunteers. Currently, there are over 50 volunteers that are receiving extensive training to ensure that when the program is officially launched they are equipped to handle various situations.

In the early stages of this project, the UTMSU released a needs assessment survey in order to better understand the pulse of the campus and the needs of students. The program is expected to launch in January 2021 where the service will be provided twice a week from 10 am to 6 pm. During these sessions, feedback will continue to be collected from students so the service can constantly improve. For questions related to the Mental Health Peer Support Program please contact our President, Mitra Yakubi, at [president@utmsu.ca](mailto:president@utmsu.ca).



## VolunTEAM

VolunTEAM is a dedicated group of student volunteers who broadcast and promote UTMSU events, campaigns, and campus groups related activities. VolunTEAM members handle the coordination and execution of UTMSU promotional and planning operations while connecting to the student population. Volunteering for the UTMSU is the best way to get involved on campus as it allows the students to build their experience and create opportunities for their personal advancement.

The VolunTEAM was created three years ago and has since served as the core volunteer team; this year the VolunTEAM has continued to provide students with an opportunity to get involved with their students' Union despite the pandemic. With over 100 volunteers the VolunTEAM is ready to provide many virtual initiatives throughout the year for students. For questions related to the VolunTEAM Program please contact our Volunteer Coordinators, at [volunteer@utmsu.ca](mailto:volunteer@utmsu.ca).



# Services



## Food Centre

The Food Centre is a space on campus for students to have access to alternative healthy food and hygiene products, and community building. The Food Centre continuously challenges societal structures that create food insecurity. Over the last year, the Food Centre has furthered the partnership with the Mississauga Food Bank to provide a wider range of vegan and gluten-free products. To access the Food Centre, a student needs to fill up a weekly form found on the UTMSU website to book a time for a food pick-up: [utmsu.ca/service/food-centre-order/](https://utmsu.ca/service/food-centre-order/).

Additionally, the Centre is planning to expand its services to include a seed library and gardening materials to support students. The UTMSU applied to the Adams Sustainability Grant to help support in funding this initiative. If you would like to get involved by volunteering, have ideas for the food centre you would like to see implemented, or are in need of food please contact our Food Coordinator at [food@utmsu.ca](mailto:food@utmsu.ca).



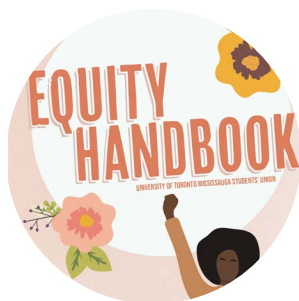
## Academic Advocacy, Know Your Academics

The UTMSU is committed to supporting students for all their academic needs. Over the last year, the UTMSU has provided academic support for over 400 students. This includes assisting students with issues regarding academic offences and educational workshops. This is a campaign that was created to educate UTM students, since the start of the 2020-2021 academic term, the Know Your Academics has evolved into an educational infographic campaign that discusses academic policies and procedures that exist at UTM. Additionally, the UTMSU held Academic Advocacy Week; a week long event focused on increasing awareness about Academics at UofT. For questions related to Academic Advocacy please contact our Vice President, Anushka Sokhi, at [vpua@utmsu.ca](mailto:vpua@utmsu.ca).



## Tax Clinic

The UTMSU in collaboration with the Canadian Federation of Students, offers free tax filing services from mid-March until the end of April. The UTMSU hires and trains over twenty volunteers to help administer this service. This service is available to every student, domestic or international. Due to the current circumstances of COVID-19, we are planning to offer the Tax Clinic virtually. Students will be able to book online appointments, and will be assisted by our volunteers and staff.



## Equity Handbook

Over the last few months, the UTMSU equity team worked tirelessly to create an Equity Handbook. The goal of the handbook is to support and educate students on topics of equity. The handbook contains resources, both internal and external to UTM, revolving around mental health, culture, and community as well as contains educational resources for people interested in learning more. The Equity Handbook is set to launch for next semester.

# Campus Groups





# Campus Groups



## (Re) Recognition

The Campus Group (re)recognition process is conducted yearly to ensure clubs and societies remain active, update their documents, and create a plan and budget for the year. 2020-2021 (re)recognition was completed virtually, and it (re)recognized 104 clubs. Campus group executives submitted various forms, such as updated constitutions, member lists, executive member lists. The (re)recognition process also allows for members with outstanding initiatives to send in proposals for new UTMSU clubs. Upon successful completion, campus groups were recognized by the UTMSU Clubs Committee, (re)recognizing existing and new clubs on campus and growing the campus groups family!



## Funding

Every UTMSU affiliated campus group receives funding yearly to support their initiatives to their members. Funding for Levy Groups is allocated to their respective student levies. For Academic Societies, it is decided by the Academic Society Advisory Committee. And for clubs, it is calculated by the Clubs' Committee after completing the recognition process. The UTMSU provides campus groups to assist with hosting events, giving prizes, and covering other overhead fees.



## Audits

Audits are completed biannually by campus groups. Audits ensure that campus groups funding are used appropriately and used to provide for campus groups members. In order to receive future funding, campus groups must complete prior audits. Campus groups will be submitting audits for the fall semester at the end of November.



## Training Sessions

The UTMSU hosts several trainings and workshops for campus groups executives throughout the academic year to review requirements such as audits and recognition. Training is also a time where campus groups executives can hear about exciting initiatives that other groups are working on, collectively building a stronger sense of community. The UTMSU has hosted two training sessions so far to help with recognition packages and transition incoming executives. The next upcoming training session will focus on audits and finances.



## Academic Society Advisor Committee

ASAC is a committee responsible for supporting the 17 existing Academic Societies at UTM. The committee has seats three UTMSU representatives and three representatives from the Office of the Dean, as both groups allocate the funding for Academic Societies. The committee's primary responsibilities are allocation of funding, approval re-recognition and supervision of elections. The committee has met to discuss Academic Society funding allocations and space. The committee successfully passed the first semester's funds.

# Internal Meetings

## Sexual Violence Training

The Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Centre held a sexual violence training for all executive members, full-time staff, part-time staff and orientation coordinators at the UTMSU. The UTMSU is committed to constantly investigating different training sessions, workshops and seminars to participate in to ensure that the UTMSU team is working the best of their abilities and so that everyone feels safe and ready to support the student community.

## Emergency Mental Health Meeting

Student mental health has been a veritable crisis at the University of Toronto for multiple years, and it's clear that unless students take decisive, united action, then this crisis is here to stay. The UTMSU and other unions across UofT came together on November 6 to discuss the mental health crisis, address issues with policies and resources at UofT, share feedback, and discuss next steps. The UTMSU will continue to co-host and be a part of the greater coalition to continue to represent the UTM students' mental health needs across the university.

## CUPE 3902 Bargaining Training

At the beginning of this term, the UTMSU executives had an introductory meeting with the executives from the Canadian Union of Public Employee Local 3902 (CUPE 3902). After this, a Bargaining Training was scheduled. This was facilitated by the executive members of the CUPE 3902. During the CUPE 3902 Bargaining Training, the executives learned more about the bargaining process, timeline, and discussed the universities response to Covid-19. During this meeting, the representatives from the UTMSU and the CUPE 3902 discussed their shared goals and concerns for this academic year. A conversation was also had about an Undergraduate Townhall to discuss the process of bargaining in more transparency with the members.

## UTMAE

At the beginning of their term, the UTMSU executives had an introductory meeting with the representatives from the University of Toronto Mississauga Athletic Council (UTMAC). In this meeting goals, objectives, and future collaborations were discussed.





## QSS Council Meeting

The Quality Service to Students (QSS) Council is a forum for students and service administrators to explore and improve the quality of student services. The UTMSU has 6 seats available as voting memberships representing undergraduate students and to make recommendations regarding the operation of UTM student services and fees collected for those services. Additionally, the Vice President External from the UTMSU is nominated as the student representative of UTM to sit on the Council on Student Services, which is the forum for discussion of student experiences at the University of Toronto tri-campus level.

## International Education Centre (IEC)

At the beginning of their term, the UTMSU executives had an introductory meeting with the representatives from the International Education Centre (IEC). In this meeting, goals and objectives, and future collaborations were discussed. The UTMSU worked with the IEC on the International Student Orientation, Academic Advocacy Week, and continues to work on initiatives related to the WUSC program.

## Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)

At the beginning of their term, the UTMSU executives had an introductory meeting with the representatives from the Centre for Student Engagement (CSE). In this meeting, goals and objectives, and future collaborations were discussed. The UTMSU was invited as a panellist to the parent and family orientation where we had the opportunity to meet the parents and family members of our student. During this session, we reflected on the support and resources provided by the UTMSU to students. Additionally, the UTMSU was invited to attend, as a campus partner, the resource fair and other orientation week programming CSE had to offer.





External Meetings



# External Meetings

## Ontario Executive Committee

The Ontario Executive Committee (OEC) is the Board of Directors for the Canadian Federation of Students' Ontario which consists of one delegate from every local union. The job of the delegate is to participate in the decision making process at the federation and then reproing back what was discussed to their local. The current UTMSU representative on the OEC is the UTMSU President, Mitra Yakubi.

## Canadian Federation of Students (ON)

The Canadian Federation of Students' is a place for local (Ontario) Students' Unions to come together and have a say in setting policies, services, priorities, and the direction of the Federation. All the decision-making of the CFS-Ontario are voted on annually at the provincial general meetings; in which all the student's across the province are present to represent the perspectives of their students.

The UTMSU executives attended the CFS-Ontario General Meeting in August and again in October where the elections for constituency and caucus spaces occurred. During these elections, two UTMSU executive members were elected to chair constituency groups. The UTMSU Vice President University Affairs, Anushka Sokhi, was elected to be the co-chair of the International Student Commission and the UTMSU President, Mitra Yakubi, was elected to be the chair of the Women's Constituency Group.

## Canadian Federation of Students

The Canadian Federation of Students' is a place for Students' Unions across the country to come together and have a say in setting policies, priorities, services, and the direction of the Federation. There are two National General Meetings in which Students' Unions can participate in and present the perspectives of students in the decision-making process. The UTMSU executives attended the most recent National General Meeting and are currently planning to attend the next National General Meeting which will be happening from November 17- 20.

## Stella's Place

Stella's Place provides in-person and online peer support, employment, wellness, and recovery services as well as opportunities to explore your creative self through studio programs for all young adults in Toronto, aged 16 to 29. The UTMSU is currently working with Stella's Place to develop the Mental Health Peer Support Program. UTMSU executives meet weekly with representatives from Stella's Place to discuss project development, feedback, and next steps.





Communications

# Communications

The UTMSU releases statements, membership advisories, and media releases. The UTMSU occasionally appears on TV, radio, and in news articles. Communications to members and the general public through mainstream media and social media are crucial in shifting the discourse on student issues.

## Interviews

The UTMSU executives, Vice President University Affairs and President, were able to participate in 5 interviews with campus media (the Varsity and the Medium). These interviews discussed orientation week, international students and their experiences, COVID-19 and the union's response, the Education For All campaign, and more.

## Newsletters

The UTMSU releases bi-weekly newsletters to the membership. These newsletters discuss upcoming events, campaigns, services for students to access. In addition to the UTMSU bi-weekly newsletter, the WeChat team has developed and continues to work on a bi-weekly multilingual newsletter for the membership.

Newsletters for campus groups were introduced this semester to ease the communication between the UTMSU and its clubs, societies and levy groups. Specific and tailored information for executives, such as training dates and audit deadlines, is sent to all groups monthly. Additionally, initiatives from the UTMSU are also promoted with the purpose of seeking collaborations from campus groups.

## Press Conferences

The UTMSU team was proud to participate in a press conference coordinated by TTC Riders to call on all levels of government to improve safety measures, increase funding for transit, and to keep our transit public. The press conference was broadcasted on CityNews, CBC and OMNI Television. In addition to the press conference, we released a joint letter to call on the government for better transit with the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students, the Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union, the Toronto Youth Cabinet, the University of Toronto Students' Union, and the York Federation of Students.

## Statements

Over the last few months, the UTMSU released 11 statements on issues pertaining to COVID-19 and the campus closures, Anti-Black Racism, the UTMSU In-Person Orientation, the Fall U-Pass, and more. All UTMSU statements may be found on the UTMSU website: [utmsu.ca/about-us/publications/](https://utmsu.ca/about-us/publications/).



## Social Media

The UTMSU's social media saw increases across all platforms. The UTMSU WeChat account had the most significant increase of 45% in total followers bringing the current total to 1118. Whereas the UTMSU Instagram page saw an increase of approximately 25% in total followers. The Instagram page has over 5,400 followers with post engagement increasing as well. Additionally, the Facebook page saw a 4% increase in total page followers bringing the total amount to 8,047.



# Solidarity

The work and victories of the UTMSU are strengthened and made possible by working together with our coalition partners who share similar values like: a free and accessible post-secondary education and fair working conditions. Over the past year, the UTMSU worked with:

- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 3902
- United SteelWorkers (USW), Local 1998
- Fight for \$15 and Fairness
- Meal Exchange
- TTC Riders
- National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)
- Peel District School Board (PDSB)
- Ontario Federation of Labor (OFL)



**United Against  
Islamophobia**



## All Out S30

Staff at the UTMSU, along with Black, Indigenous, Racialized and allied students and faculty organized a virtual strike from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. EDT on September 30 to commemorate Orange Shirt Day and to strike against Anti-Black and Anti-Indigenous racism in institutions across Canada. The UTMSU supported the action with a monetary donation to support the expenses of the strike. The strike had multiple talks such as Why We Strike?, Cops Off Campus - Defund The Police, Barriers To Education, and Underfunded And Overrepresented: Racism In The Classroom. Overall, All Out S30 had over 3,000 people tune in throughout the day.



## Mississauga for EndSARS

The UTMSU stood in solidarity with the Nigerian Community on October 24, 2020 against the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a police unit with a well documented and disturbing history of harassment and brutality. The UTMSU was able to support the protest with internal resources to assist the volunteers on the day of the action. Actions are difficult in the suburbs, however, the organizers were able to mobilize a great march starting from Square One Shopping Centre to Celebration Square. Virtual actionable items took place at Celebration Square as well as addresses from multiple speakers.





# Finances

## Overview

Budgets are about priorities, and the UTMSU's priority is its members. The UTMSU Budget is prepared and revised in three phases: Preliminary Budget, Operating Budget and Revised Budget. They all follow the Budget Planning Framework set forth in the Union's Operational Policy Manual. The operational policy outlines an eight-step process that the UTMSU must follow to create its budget each year. All budgets must be approved by the UTMSU Board of Directors.

Due to the Student Choice Initiative, the UTMSU finances and budget had to be reviewed carefully to account for essential and non-essential operations. By rearranging our finances, we ensured minimal disruption to student services, events and campaigns provided by the UTMSU. Since the end of the 2019/2020 academic year, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the UTMSU finances, as most services were temporarily closed. Adapting to safety guidelines, we have continued to provide essential student services, events and campaigns to accommodate our students.

## What is an Audit

A financial audit is an objective examination and evaluation of the financial statements of an organization to make sure that the financial records are a fair and accurate representation of the transactions they claim to represent.

## About the Auditors

As ratified at the November 2019 AGM, the UTMSU auditors for the 2019-2020 audit are Yale PGC LLP. The firm provides a range of services including completion of statutory audits and preparation of review and compilation engagements since 1953. This was the first year of Yale PGC LLP auditing the UTMSU.

## Membership Dues

The UTMSU membership dues were democratically established by referendum so that students could provide services, host events and advocate for their needs. To this date, membership dues are collected by the UTMSU each semester to finance crucial services, events and campaigns.

The UTMSU collects \$35.41 each semester, which is subject to increases with cost-of-living, according to the referendum approved in 2006. Previously a portion of the membership fees was disbursed to the University of Toronto Students Union (UTSU). Since the UTMSU UTSU separation was endorsed at the AGM in 2018. The UTMSU now collects the full amount for UTM specific programming.



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*2020 Annual General Meeting*