

Executive Reports

March 2021

Mitra Yakubi

President



Executive Summary

Hellooo! Happy end of March. This month I was away for quite a while however on my week back I was able to get updated on all the great work that had been done while I was away. I also had the opportunity to attend several meetings which have been highlighted below, and i'm excited for what April, the last month of my first term will bring!



Agenda

1. UofT Student Equity Census Advisory Roundtable
2. OVPS - UTMSU Meeting
3. SCI Appeal Court Hearing
4. Fight for \$15 & Fairness Meeting
5. Bid Evaluation Food-Sub Committee
6. Meetings Attended

UofT Student Equity Census Advisory Roundtable

As a member on the census advisory round table me and Noha participated in a meeting with other members of the roundtable. Actively highlighting the importance of the data, how it can be used to best support the UofT community, and the best practices to ensure that the data is not misused.

OVPS - UTMSU Meeting

As part of our monthly check-in we met with the office of the Provosts, this week we discussed several pressing issues such as Covid-19 Updates, Fall-return to campus, Orientation 2021 and UMLAP. During this meeting we've been given updates regarding what services were expected to look like across the university in Fall, vaccination plan and rollout. We also heard the great news during this meeting that after our lobbying effort with our student unions across UofT, the UMLAP review sessions had been extended until Fall 2021, this allows for a greater consultation time for the students. If you'd like to learn more about the UMLAP please don't hesitate to contact me.

SCI Appeal Court Hearing

The student choice initiative appeal hearing was the second time where students across the country were asking for the provincial government to respect the students' voices and their right to exist. The UTMSU executives alongside other student leaders and students attended the court hearing and are hopeful in getting the SCI removed all together. If you have any questions about the SCI please do not hesitate to ask me.



Fight for \$15 & Fairness Meeting

I alongside some other executives attended this event where we discussed organizing for safe and healthy workplaces, paid sick days, decent work and building stronger communities. During these conversations we also discussed how we as a community can address anti-black racism and be effective allies to the communities impacted.

Bid-Evaluation Food Sub-Committee

Kaizen presented a summary of the bids for our Food Service RFP as per the key evaluation criteria laid out in the RFP. The bids were then discussed as a group in the hopes of short-listing the proponents down to 2 candidates who will prepare a presentation and answer questions from our group in a subsequent meeting.

Meetings Attended

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| March/22 - UTMSU x OVPS | March/24 - Presidential Team Meeting |
| March/22 - Uoft Student Equity census roundtable | March/25 - Mitra x Mudassir x Grayce |
| March/22 - Catch Up on Missed content | March/25 - Clubs Committee |
| March/23 - SCI appeal court hearing | March/25 - SPMC Meeting |
| March/23 - Campus Affairs Committee | March/25 - CFS Rise Planning session |
| March/23 - Anti-Asian Racism XAO event | March/25 - Volunteam Cafe - Multicultural |
| March/23 - Fight for \$15 & Fairness Meeting | March/26 - UMLAP Meeting w/Reviewers |
| March/24 - Free Breakfast Wednesday | March/26 - Forum on student orientation |
| March/24 - Virtual Town Hall on UMLAP | March/26 - UTMSU x Stellas |
| March/24 - Team Meeting | March/26 - Bid evaluation for food committee |
| March/24 - UMLAP Review Prep | March/26 - Board meeting |



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March/27 - OFL Education Assembly

Sincerely,

Mitra Yakubi

Mitra Yakubi (she/her)

President

Fahad Dayala

Vice President Internal



Executive Summary

Hello everyone. As we see the end of March, I'd really like to appreciate you all for making it this far in the semester. This year has been undoubtedly tough, and you all deserve every bit of appreciation! The past month has been very heavy in terms of events, hirings, elections, services and much more! We hired some new staff, collaborated with campus groups on various events, had the Tax Clinic running everyday, and came together as student unions across UofT to advocate for better policies for students. Since the President was away for most of March, I was serving as the Interim President for the UTMSU, which was a very fun and exciting experience! It was tough handling two portfolios simultaneously, but I'm ever thankful to my team, and the staff at UTMSU, for their consistent support not only during the past weeks, but throughout the year. I look forward to ending this term in the best way possible, with April being the last month.



Agenda

1. Hirings
2. University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy (UMLAP)
3. UTMSU x Career Centre
4. Student Business Promotions
5. Internships & Personal Branding
6. UTMSU Spring Elections
7. Tax Clinic
8. Free Breakfast Wednesday
9. Health & Dental Insurance
10. Meetings Attended

Hirings

In the past month, we hired over 35 Poll Clerks to assist with us with the Spring 2021 Elections. The process was completed in early March, and they were trained by the CRO and the DROs soon after they were hired. We promoted the job posting for our Graphics & Communications Coordinator, which is a full-time staff position, and the deadline is Friday, March 26th. Once the deadline passes, we will begin the interview process with our Hiring Committee, which consists of some executives and board members. We are also hiring for the Vice President Campus Life, and Orientation Coordinator positions for next year. The Vice President Campus Life position is a full-time position, open to current UTM students. The VP Campus Life is a part of the Executive Committee for next year, and they get to plan a lot of events throughout the year. The Orientation Coordinator position is mostly over the summer months, and the coordinator is to plan and overlook the UTMSU Orientation. If you are interested, please check our website, or share it with people who might be interested.

University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy

(UMLAP)

University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy (UMLAP) is a three year old policy, initiated by UofT in 2018. As per UofT's policy, UMLAP is under review in



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2021. The Office of the Vice Provost reached out to student organizations for their feedback, and shared the timeline for the review of this policy. However, the timeline was extremely short, in the middle of student union elections, and very close to final exams for students at the University. Considering these factors, UTMSU came together with other student unions across UofT, including UTSU, APUS, SCSU, and GSU. We sent a joint letter to the reviewers of the policy requesting an extension in this deadline into Fall 2021, so we can have more opportunities to reach out to our members, and have meaningful conversations about their feedback about this said policy. With our joint efforts, we were able to get an extension for this deadline. This allows us to prioritize student voices, and ensure that the university listens to students when reviewing this policy. To read the joint statement, please visit:

<https://utmsu.ca/about-us/publications/>

UTMSU x Career Centre

On March 19 and 23, the UTMSU collaborated with the Career Centre on two events; Resume & Cover Letter Workshop, and Finding Summer Internships and Jobs. These events were well attended by students, and the Career Centre taught some really interesting ways to better your chances of getting summer jobs, and improving your resumes and cover letters. We also talked about the work UTMSU does, and various employment opportunities available via the UTMSU.

Student Business Promotions

On March 30 and 31, we will be hosting Instagram Lives, and posting pre-recorded sessions of UTM student-run business, where these students will be talking about how they started their business, what motivated them to start, and how their overall experience has been. This will also provide student entrepreneurs across UTM a chance to promote their business within the community. I look forward to these conversations, and encourage you all to join us on Instagram as well.

Internships & Personal Branding

We are organizing another event, related to our other set of events in March. We have invited speaker Sherjan Hussainiem to speak about internship



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practices, and how to build your personal brand, and better portray yourself in your career fields. The event will be via Zoom, on Monday March 29th. I highly recommend you to attend this session. You have a chance to win \$50 gift cards, while learning something new! For more information, please visit our Instagram page @myutmsu.

UTMSU Spring Elections

Over the past month, UTMSU conducted its first ever virtual Spring Elections, given the situation of the pandemic. This was a unique experience for all of us, and I appreciate the efforts of the CRO, DROs, Poll Clerks, and other staff involved in the election process, to ensure we have smooth and fair elections. I also want to thank all the candidates for taking part in these elections, showing your interest in the UTMSU, and being passionate to work for the students at large. We are proud to have such members who look forward to the betterment of the entire student body.

Tax Clinic

The UTMSU Tax Clinic is underway, since the second week of March. This year, we are providing free tax filing services to eligible students, virtually. You can register for the tax clinic, get your eligibility verified, book an appointment, and get your taxes filed for no cost at all. So far, we have been able to assist numerous students, and anticipate many more students to make use of this service. For more information, please visit: <https://utmsu.ca/service/tax-clinic/>

Free Breakfast Wednesday

This past month, we hosted two Free Breakfast Wednesday events. With the virtual world, its super important for students to stay connected, and have assurance that other students are having similar experiences as well. The Free Breakfast Wednesday does an amazing job at combating loneliness, and brings students together as we meet alternative Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm to play games, discuss current events, and get to know each other better.

Health & Dental Insurance



The UTMSU provides Health & Dental Insurance to all its members. The insurance provides upto \$5,000 Health coverage, and upto \$800 Dental coverage. This past month, we went over the plan, and are trying our best to improve the benefits available to students.

Meetings Attended

- Mar 1 - Check-in w/ Adiba
- Mar 1 - Check-in w/ Layana
- Mar 1 - PT Staff Meeting
- Mar 2 - Check-in w Hamid
- Mar 2 - Campus Groups Elections Training #1
- Mar 2 - CRO Training #1
- Mar 3 - Check-in w/ Hamid
- Mar 3 - Check-in w/ Christina
- Mar 3 - Team Meeting
- Mar 3 - Campus Groups Elections Training #
- Mar 3 - Divestment 101 Discussion
- Mar 3 - CRO Training #2
- Mar 4 - Open Zoon Q&A Session
- Mar 4 - Check-in w/ Mary
- Mar 5 - Academic Advocacy Friday
- Mar 5 - Bursary Committee Meeting
- Mar 5 - Office Meeting
- Mar 5 - Poll Clerk Training
- Mar 5 - Bursary Committee Meeting
- Mar 6 - Community of Care
- Mar 6 - All Candidates Meeting
- Mar 7 - Gov & Fin SMART
- Mar 8 - Check-in w/ Hamid
- Mar 8 - Executive Committee Meeting
- Mar 8 - EARC Meeting #7
- Mar 8 - Poll Clerk Training
- Mar 9 - Check-in w/ Mudassir
- Mar 9 - Exec report Meeting
- Mar 10 - Free Breakfast Wednesday
- Mar 10 - Check-in w/ Noha
- Mar 10 - Team Meeting
- Mar 10 - All Candidates Forum
- Mar 11 - Campus Life Team Check-in
- Mar 11 - Student Business Promo Meeting
- Mar 11 - Virtual Spring Showcase
- Mar 12 - H&D Renewal Meeting
- Mar 12 - Meeting w/ Sherjan
- Mar 12 - Meeting w/ Lucinda
- Mar 12 - APUS AGM
- Mar 15 - UTMSU x SCSU
- Mar 15 - Open Q&A Session
- Mar 15 - Check-in w/ Mudassir
- Mar 16 - UMLAP Review Meeting
- Mar 17 - UMLAP Review Discussion
- Mar 17 - QSS Meeting
- Mar 17 - Team Meeting
- Mar 17 - Tax Clinic Test
- Mar 18 - Check-in w/ Mary
- Mar 18 - Check-in w/ Felipe
- Mar 18 - Call w/ Scrutineers
- Mar 19 - UTMSU x Career Centre Event
- Mar 19 - H&D Discussion
- Mar 19 - SCI: Next Steps
- Mar 20 - Virtual Spring Showcase
- Mar 21 - SMART Meeting
- Mar 22 - OVPS x UTMSU
- Mar 22 - Meeting w/ Noha
- Mar 23 - EARC #8
- Mar 23 - Anti Asian Racism Event
- Mar 23 - \$15 & Fairness Event
- Mar 24 - EARC #9
- Mar 24 - Team Meeting



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Mar 24 - Cooking Event
Mar 25 - Clubs Committee
Mar 25 - VolunTEAM Cafe
Mar 25 - EARC #10
Mar 26 - UMLAP Review

Mar 26 - Executive Committee Meeting
Mar 26 - Forum of Orientation
Mar 26 - Check-in w/ Hamid
Mar 26 - BOD Meeting

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fahad Dayala', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Fahad Dayala (he/him)
Vice President Internal

Lily Pan

Vice President External



Executive Summary

It has been a very busy month because of all the lobbying work whether at provincial level or within UofT. It has been a month for us to witness elections for student groups. It has also been a month where I got to see celebrations for women internationally, as well as student leaders standing up and speak about what students have been going through and fight for students' right. It is very exciting to see all of the great work and movements being continued.

Agenda

1. Lobby Week
2. Women's Day Soiree
3. University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy (UMLAP)
4. Meetings Attended

Lobby Week



Thanks to the CFS Ontario Lobby Week, I was able to meet with some MPPs along with fellow unions, having discussions on how we can work together to reduce the burden on students and how we should work toward recovery from the pandemic.

Women's Day Soiree

Happy International Women's Day!

The External team and the Presidential team worked together on the Women's Day Soiree event. The event included an open discussion space, presentation from poet/artist, and a Kahoot game. We tried to create a space for healing, to make friends, and to celebrate. We received some great feedbacks from students that attended the events.

University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy

(UMLAP)

Lately, because of the student consultation process, we put in quite a number of works. The goal was to conduct a thorough consultation the truly represent students' feedback. On March 19, along with SCSU, UTSU, APUS, UTGSU, we sent a letter to the policy review committee requesting an extension for the review process. On Monday, we successfully heard back from them and agreed to extend to Fall 2021. But there are still a lot of works that need to be done. There are ongoing town halls that we really encourage folks to attend and express their feelings.

Meetings Attended

March 1	External team check in PT Staff meeting Lobby week prep
March 2	Lobby meeting: MPP Doly Begum
March 3	Team meeting Divestment 101 - Discussion
March 4	Lobby meeting prep
March 5	International Student Working Group Lobby meeting: MPP Gurratan Singh
March 6	All candidates meeting
March 8	External team check in IWD prep meeting



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	Executive Committee Meeting
	Women's Day Soiree
	WeChat Team meeting
March 9	Exec Report Video Meeting
March 10	Team meeting
	All Candidates Forum
March 11	Emergency BoD meeting #4
	VSS Open House
March 12	UTMSU * Res Council meeting
March 13	SMART Tri-campus meeting
March 15	UTMSU * SCSU UMLAP Review Discussion
	External team check in
March 16	UTMSU * UTSU UMLAP Review Discussion
March 17	UMLAP Review Discussion (tri-campus unions)
	QSS meeting
	Team meeting
	International Student Working Group meeting
March 21	UofT SMART UMLAP Review Strategy Meeting
March 22	External team check in
	OVPS * UTMSU meeting
March 23	EARC meeting #8
March 24	EARC meeting #9
	Team meeting
	UMLAP Review Meeting prep
March 26	UMLAP Review UTMSU Consultation
	Forum on Student Orientation
	BoD meeting

Noha Farawi

Vice President Equity



Agenda

1. Winter Bursaries
2. XAO x Multicultural Week
3. Food Centre
4. Seed Library
5. Divest 101
6. Equity Census

Winter Bursaries

Our winter bursaries are our last batch of needs-based bursaries for the 2020-2021 academic year. We were able to go through all the applicants at our bursary committee meeting on March 5th. Students had their cheques mailed out to them. Our childcare bursaries are still up on our website and students are able to apply to them.



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XAO x Multicultural Week

For the first time ever, Xpression Against Oppression and Multicultural Week united. In collaboration with the campus life team, we were able to hold a week full of great events. For the Xpression Against Oppression's component, we were able to hold a presentation on Anti-Asian Racism and Covid with Dr. Logie. The presentation was well attended and highly informative. We also had two videos filmed by our Racialized Students' Coordinator, Reagan, shared on our social media on the topics of Anti-Asian Racism and Covid and the communities hit the hardest by Covid. And lastly, we had a commission for students with disabilities. This is a space for students to join and share their input and concerns of being a student with a disability on campus.

Food Centre

The food centre has been fortunate to be able to be up and running every Monday during this winter semester. The food centre was able to collaborate with UTM's Sustainability Week this month. They helped us promote the food centre by giving students the ability to fill up a survey on specific events that later translate to "points" for the food centre. The more points gathered, the higher the donation we will receive from them. The food centre is now planning a big last day opening for this academic year on April 5th. We're going to be open for longer hours and also order food from the Mississauga Food Bank to be ready to distribute safely to students on the day. The food centre is also getting ready to soon be expanded and renovated. These renovations will help us make the food centre more accessible to students.

Seed Library

For the first seed library initiative, we were able to create "Herb Care Packages". These are care packages that have all the supplies needed to start two types of herbs at home. The seed library was also able to secure a big order of seeds. Because of covid, seeds have been difficult to purchase in bulk. They are on their way now, and we'll very soon have a fully functional library full of seeds for students to come pick up free of charge. We are also planning on



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gathering gardening tools and resources for students to borrow and use during the gardening season.

Divest 101

We were able to collaborate with Leap UofT on their Divestment 101 presentation and discussion during Eco-Fest. As a lot of you may know, UTM has a sustainability plan that does not include divesting our money from fossil fuel companies. Conversations on this topic is crucial. It's not common for students to know that their tuition money is going into the investment to one of the leading causes of climate change and the destruction of communities. That's why it's important for us as a union to constantly support in educating our students on the topic.

Equity Census

As mentioned in previous reports, I am one of the co-conveners for the Equity Census Roundtable. The roundtable meets monthly to discuss a specific topic and give recommendations to be added to the final report that will be released at the end of summer. This is the first year for the Equity Census, so there's a lot to be spoken about and recommended for the upcoming years to implement.

Tarwah Afrah

Vice President Campus Life



Agenda

1. Black History Month
2. Multicultural x XAO
3. Block Party

Black History Month

Black History Month has been a blast, working with the black history month committee which includes Black Students Association UTM, Caribbean Connection, African Students Associations, Black Literature Collective. We have offered vast variety of events such as Opening Ceremony: In this interactive

event, we will be discussing a range of topics from black mental health to being black in post-secondary. Love, Sex and Relationship: This was a safe and positive space for students to ask questions and engage in a discussion about all things love, sex, and relationships. Black In The Kitchen: This was a cooking event in collaboration with the food center where we delivered fresh ingredients to attendees, we also have the pleasure of hosting a chef who taught us how to make West African cuisine Jollof Rice. Black Professional Panel featuring black professionals from various fields maneuvering through their careers while being black, the conversation was centered on any trial and tribulations they faced due to systematic oppression and how they were able to deal with it.

Closing Ceremony was our final event before the end of black history month this was a feel-good event, centred around games and music, and creating a sense of community.



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Multicultural Fest x XAO

Multicultural Fest is underway!

This week we will have several events glorifying the beauty of diversity on our wonderful campus, the first of which is the campus group cultural bash which showcases our campus groups favourite aspect of multiculturalism, sharing dances, foods and greetings. The Buss' it challenge which allows members to take cultural spin on the viral tiktok, the best Tik tok will receive a great prize. Cook with a Look is featuring a guest chef all the way from London UK who will be teaching us how to cook Roti and vegetable curry! We also will be having our social event Volunteam Cafe Multiculturalism event.

Block Party

As the term comes to an end we are launching our last series of events the annual UTMSU Block Party which will be held in the first week of April, we will be hosting A LOT of giveaways and social events to end the year off with a bang.