

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA STUDENTS' UNION
LOCAL 109 OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



@myUTMSU

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Letter to Members

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2021 Annual General Meeting for the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU). Since last November, the UTMSU has been busy running online and in-person events, providing cost-saving services and doing 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.

Over the past year and a half, we've dealt with very difficult and unforeseen circumstances due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic has forced many students, the university and workplaces to adapt but we are here to remind our members that the purpose of their students' union has never changed. We are here to provide support, resources, and fight for your student rights. this time.

Since the last time we met, the UTMSU has continued to work on our most important campaigns including: My Mental Health Matters, Fairness for International Students, United for Equity, Consent is Mandatory/No Means No and Education for All. Additionally, the UTMSU has determined ways to provide important services including, Off-Campus Housing support, free and accessible food through the Food Centre, a Health and Dental Plan, the U-pass, free tax filing services, cheap printing and graduation photography and Peer to Peer Mental Health Support. The UTMSU successfully launched several new services including, the Textbook Exchange Program, Free Headshots, the UTMSU Health and Wellness Program, and Job Readiness Program. Now what's university without a little bit of fun? We've also hosted events such as a Water Balloon Fight, a successful hybrid orientation called Cyber '21, SaugaFest, Hallo-Week, Academic Advocacy Week, Free Breakfast Wednesdays, Summer Care Packages, Plant and Mingle, and phone and email zaps for Palestine and the University of Toronto Mandated Leave of Absence Policy (UMLAP).

Together, we've made so many positive changes on 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 students' issues are placed at the forefront of UofT and the provincial government's priorities. Both domestic and international students deserve a system of post-secondary 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

Merica Joy Carlos
VP University Affairs

Maelis Barre
VP External

Tarwah Afrah
VP Campus Life

Ryan Tomlinson
VP Equity

Wei Lai
VP Internal

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).

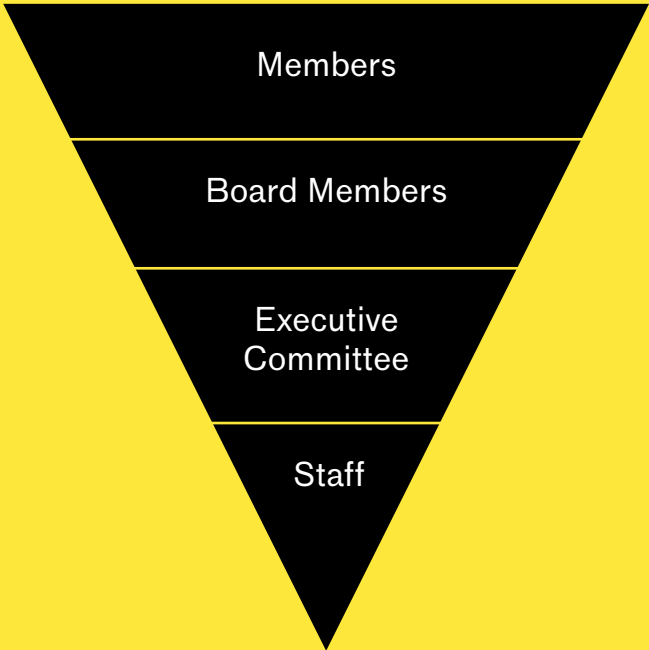
The UTMSU is a non-profit organization that abides by the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). UTMSU's constitution and bylaws that are set by and for members. The day-to-day operations of the organization are managed by the Executive Committee, full-time and part-time staff and a board of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

- Division 1**
First-Year Directors:
Irene He
Glenda Fu
- Division 2**
Directors At-Large:
Arianna Teresa Foo
Christopher Chavez
Crystal Cheng
Michelle Melvin
Mingyu Li
Mirza Aneeq Ahmad
Qutian (Gracie) Yan
Tamara El-Aydi
Xinyu Tian
Yongxin Liang (John Bayar Liang)
- 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.

Our Pillars



Campaigns

Services

Events

Campaigns and Advocacy



Education for All

The Education for All campaign was launched to persuade the University of Toronto Governing council and political leaders to make funding for a free and accessible post-secondary education a priority. High tuition fees have discriminatory and detrimental impacts on students. Students in Ontario face the highest tuition fees in the country and the financial burden that accompanies them leaves many students with huge amounts of debt. 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 all decision makers to listen to the needs of students. 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

This year, we continued our efforts to educate our membership about this campaign and the importance of free and accessible post secondary education for all students. We organized a chalking action event, where students came by our outreach table and took part in a large-scale chalking drawing. A large number of students came and contributed to the collaborative drawing by adding reasons why free education is important to them, and ways in which the university makes them pay excessive fees that they could invest in themselves, their families or their futures.

As part of outreach, we put together fake invoices where students could demand their money back from UofT and/or indicate where they would spend their money if free education existed. We collected over 150 invoices and have mailed them to UofT President Meric Gertler along with a copy of our lobby document. Following the reception of those invoices, we will set up a lobby meeting with the Office of the President at UofT to present our demands and our lobby document. Additionally, during outreach, we have materials so that students can voice 'Why is free education important to [them]'. Those messages are posted in Davis for all students to see and share their experiences.

The Education for All campaign is integrated in most of our programming, to build in more members and to show the importance of free and accessible education for all. For instance, we organized some spooky themed outreach during Halloweek with a bucket of debt where students shared how much debt they are in and how scary that is. As part of Culture Fest, we are planning on having an Education for All discussion panel that focuses on the fight for free education around the world,

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 advocates for better food security on campus by calling for affordable, healthy, accessible, and diverse food options.

This past year, members of the UTMSU executives including the President and Vice-President External sat on the Food Services Advisory Committee. During these meetings, we provided the feedback we have received from members directly to the UTM administration. After many years our campaign and lobbying efforts successfully removed Chartwells as the main food provider at UTM. This is a huge success as it goes to show that when we organize and mobilize we have the ability to do anything. The UTMSU will continue to observe the quality of food services on campus, and will continue to advocate for affordable, sustainable, and equitable food.

For any questions or inquiry regarding the current food services at UTM, please contact our President, Mitra Yakubi at president@utmsu.ca.

Fairness For International Students

The Fairness for International Students campaign, which is the sister campaign of Education for All, focuses on International students' rights, issues, and opportunities. The campaign discusses the importance of access to OHIP, grants, and a more accessible education in Canada.

The Demands for this Campaign are to:

1. Immediately Reduce tuition fees for all international students
2. Reinstate OHIP for International Students
3. Increase funding and scholarships for international students

This year, the UTMSU started an International Students Roundtable to ensure that international students are the ones driving the campaign. The roundtable has met multiple times to highlight priorities, delegate tasks and come up with an action plan to address international students' issues with the correct decision makers.

Moving forward, we will be setting up meetings with Members of Parliament and Members of the UofT Governing Council to share our lobby document and demands, and lobby the appropriate decision makers to achieve our goals outlined above.

For questions related to the Fairness for International Students Campaign or to get involved in this campaign please contact our Vice-President, External, Maëlis Barre, at vpexternal@utmsu.ca.

My Mental Health Matters

My Mental Health Matters Campaign was revamped and improved this past year to continue promoting mental wellbeing on campus. As part of this initiative, the UTMSU delivered care packages that had self-care products and a list of internal and external resources for students to access. 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.

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 expanding the Mental Health Peer Support Program which was created in collaboration with Stella's Place.

For questions related to the My Mental Health Matters campaign or the Mental Health Peer support program please contact our President, Mitra Yakubi, at 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 should not stop simply because we are working virtually. This year, the UTMSU is using different educational tools to talk about forms of oppression and how we can challenge them. We started off by launching the United for Equity definitions. Equity terms are usually inaccessible and loaded with terminology that is difficult to understand. That is why we are

taking the time to define key terms on our social media. These definitions are posted weekly on our social media. Last academic year, we launched the Unlearning and Learning Sustainability: Seminar Series and the Equity Handbook to better support members. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the UTMSU is hosting a series of closed spaces for racialized, Indigenous, Black and 2SLGBTQ+ students. We have already created two successful spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ students through town halls and karaoke. On November 2, we hosted the first black students' space called Where do You Lie. Additionally, to further the United for Equity campaign, the UTMSU launched a podcast named Revealing the Nuance where we will bring people from numerous different communities to discuss specific topics that impact the UTM community.

WUSC

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 \$1.98 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 fourteen students. The UTMSU has a local WUSC committee and a group of passionate volunteers that worked to support the new student, hosted events for refugee awareness and outreach about the Student

Refugee Program and the WUSC. Some of these events included fundraisers where all the proceeds were donated to charities focusing on supporting refugees in Canada; socials such as movie nights, game nights or dinners for students to get to know each other and learn more about WUSC in a fun environment; information sessions and trainings; women's education week programming; amongst other initiatives. In terms of working to resettle the student, one of the key points is supporting the student financially, academically, and socially throughout their post secondary education journey, and being there to help with anything they might need. This is done with the goal of empowering students to ensure they are able to be fully independent and equipped to thrive at university and in Canada in general.

For questions related to the WUSC Program or Committee please contact our Vice President External, Maëlis Barre, vpexternal@utmsu.ca.

Student Housing

The UTMSU is working towards ensuring that all students have access to safe, affordable housing. As part of our efforts to advocate for safer and liveable housing for students, the UTMSU started a housing committee where any interested student can be part of the research, lobbying and advocacy work of the committee. In the initial meetings, the committee focused on outlining the challenges faced by students in terms of housing, and mapping out the key goals that we want to set for ourselves as part of this committee. Our main goals include demanding a reduced rate for student housing, an effective legal system to protect students from predatory landlords and unsafe situations, and putting together resources for students to access when they need help finding and securing housing.

Apart from our internal housing committee, the UTMSU has been in regular meetings with other housing organizations including the Center for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA), Housing Ontario University Students Equitably (HOUSE organization) and UTILE (a housing organization in Quebec). We are also part of a Peel Housing Coalition spearheaded by CERA. The purpose is to unite our housing advocacy efforts. Over the summer, the UTMSU hosted a Know Your Housing Rights workshop in partnership with the Downtown Legal Services which focused on students' legal rights as tenants and the dangers we have to be cautious of. It was also a space for students to share their experiences, and for us to provide resources and paths for students to get housing support. We also hosted a town

hall where students had the opportunity to hear from speakers working towards implementing safe, affordable and community-oriented student housing, as well as share their own feedback and experiences. Finally, we completed some research and updated the off-campus housing page of the UTMSU website to add more resources and address frequently asked questions.

Last year, the UTMSU took part and shared a survey organized by UTILE, a non-profit student housing organization in Quebec. Thanks to this survey, we have access to housing data and information specific to UTM students. This information will be used to solidify our demands and goals.

Moving forward, we will be meeting with the Office of the Mayor and City councillors to address student housing concerns in Mississauga.

Academic Accommodations

Academic Accommodations aim to ensure students have the proper accommodations when they experience extenuating circumstances or need additional support. The UTMSU recognizes that many students are still struggling to balance their academics but the pandemic has exacerbated many pre-pandemic issues. As such, the UTMSU is lobbying for a standardized procedure that would make requesting accommodations (due to COVID or other reasons) much simpler. The UTMSU's lobbying includes demands to extend the CR/NCR deadline to the last day that students receive their grades, and to help give assistance to students who are taking online courses, especially by eliminating in-person exams for all online courses. Lastly, we are working with various partners to ensure that lecture materials such as recordings are posted on Quercus, and the fees associated with textbooks or subscription based platforms are eliminated.

For questions related to Academic Accommodations please contact our Vice President University Affairs, Merica Joy Carlos, vpua@utmsu.ca

Safe Return to Campus

During the summer, the UTMSU was contacted by several students who shared their concerns regarding the Fall return back to campus. The UTMSU President, Mitra, had the chance to meet with these students and worked with them to organize the UTMSU Safe Return to Campus Town Hall. The Town Hall was held during the summer and had three UTM administrative members on the panel, including Principal Alexandra Gillespie, Dean Mark Overton, and Dean Rhonda McEwen. The space was created for students to ask questions related to the return back to campus, share their thoughts, feedback, and bring forward concerns directly to the UTM administration. The Town Hall was extremely successful with over 125 attendees and a very interactive question and answer session.

In addition to the Town Hall, the UTMSU continued to gauge how effective and safe members felt returning to campus by doing outreach, and engaging people on social media and online. The UTMSU executives are working with our sister unions, labour unions, staff, and faculty to ensure a safe return that does not leave behind immunocompromised, international, and any other student who cannot be on campus or doesn't feel safe enough to be.

For any questions or inquiry regarding Safe Return to Campus, please contact our President, Mitra Yakubi at president@utmsu.ca.

Events

Cyber '21: Orientation Week



Orientation is the largest UTMSU event and this year was no different! Even though the UTMSU was able to hold Orientation events in-person and virtually, Cyber '21 was the first hybrid orientation in UTMSU history!

This year, the theme for Orientation focused on the importance of social interactions, and community care. The virtual aspect of Cyber '21 consisted of academic workshops, campus group introductions, group activities, wonderful performances and a 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. The in-person components focused on small group activities, mentoring, and networking.

Events

Frost Week

Frost Week consisted of a full week of events to welcome students back after the holidays. All events were held virtually. To start the week off, there was a club fest where students were able to browse campus groups, ask questions, and hopefully get involved. Frost Week also contained an Eat with the Ducky Squad Mukbang where students were invited to ask UTMSU representatives questions about the work being done, and opportunities to get involved in their students' union. Speed friending was a highlight of the week because the pandemic had severely impacted social interactions between members. This event was filled with fun icebreakers, and activities to ease the tensions of the virtual world. Frost Week ended off with a bang with our first ever virtual concert with Grammy-nominated singer, Giveon. Over 3,500 members were singing their hearts out from the safety of their own homes.

We are now planning Frost Week 2022.

Culture Fest meets XAO

In March 2021, we combined our Culture Fest with eXpression Against Oppression. The series of events featured an asynchronous "Buss 'it'" challenge which showcased the beauty in diversity at UTM, an Anti-Asian Racism and Covid Discussion, and an Indian Cuisine cooking class hosted by a celebrity chef. Finally a commission space was designated for students with disabilities to share their lived experiences.

In November 2021, we are planning an Education Around the World panel that will focus on the fight for free education around the world, and how the student movement might look in different parts of the world. We also intend to host a multicultural Free Breakfast Wednesday, as well as a cooking class for members tackling food insecurity on campus, while learning about the culture of their peers on campus. Cultural based campus groups will also have the opportunity to table throughout culture fest.

Black History Month

Black History Month was a success with the help of wonderful clubs like Caribbean Connection, Black Literature Club, the Black Students' Association, and volunteers. Students were able to attend a month-long series of events with necessary conversations about pressing issues that Black students and the Black community deal with on a daily basis.

Throughout the month of February, students participated in events such as the Opening Ceremony/ Red Table Talk, "To be a Black Student in Canada" event hosted by the Canadian Federation of Students, the annual "Love, Sex and Relationships" which is always a member favourite. We also hosted Black to the Kitchen, our first ever cooking class, where attendees were given all the ingredients to make Jollof Rice. The final two events were a Black Professionals Panel, and an Open Mic Night.

Indigenous History Month

Throughout the month of June, the UTMSU ran a series of educational events about Indigenous History. Our first event was an educational round table talk to dismantle current myths and stereotypes about Indigenous communities. This was hosted in partnership with the Association of Part Time Undergraduate Students (APUS) and the Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU). In this space we were able to discuss the history behind certain myths or stereotypes regarding free education, taxes, and much more.

In collaboration with APUS and SCSU, we also hosted an Anti-Canada day event called *Learning the Truth Behind Treaties within Mississauga and the GTA*. Hosted by Darin Wybenga participants were able to learn about the history behind the creation of treaties within Mississauga the GTA and the colonization of Indigenous people.

Pride Month

In June, the UTMSU hosted numerous Pride Month events with the collaboration of multiple different organizations.

The first event that we held was a Flag Drop! For this event we teamed up with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office to virtually show the Pride and Trans flag hung outside the Student centre. Our guest speaker Elspeth Brown talked about pride in Mississauga and the evolution of Pride in the GTA. We also hosted a 2SLGBTQ+ Town Hall, which was a space to allow 2SLGBTQ+ students and allies voice their difficulties being out at UTM.

This space also allowed students to share their recommendations for the Union and administration to better improve the 2SLGBTQ+ community experience at UTM. At the event we also had Brandon Rhéal Amyot from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), who illustrated their continuous work for 2SLGBTQ+ students around Canada. Additionally, in light of Indigenous History Month and recognizing intersectionality, the UTMSU held a discussion called the Colonization of Sexuality. This discussion was hosted by Keith McCrady, a Two-Spirit Indigenous youth leader, who discussed the numerous sexualities within Indigenous communities, and how so many have been erased due to colonization, and practices they were forced to adhere to.

Throughout Pride Month we also held two movie nights with APUS and the Continuing Education Students Association at X University (CESAX) on June 18 and 25 where we screened the first two episodes of the television show Pose. The screenings gave folks an insight into ball culture, the experiences of many trans women of colour, and their difficulties being included within the LGBTQ+ community due to their intersecting identities.

This pride month we also offered Pride goodie bags to folks who signed up. The bags included pride and trans flags, vegetable seeds, clay pots, paint and more! Our final event of the month was Drag Bingo! For this event, we collaborated with CESAX to host a night filled with laughter and prizes which was moderated by Drag Queen, Erin Brockobic.

International Student Orientation

The International Student Orientation was held in collaboration with the International Education Centre (IEC). The purpose of the event was to make the transition to post-secondary easier since international students have a different experience than domestic students. This was a space to share important information, advice from upper year students, and for students to meet each other before school starts. The UTMSU highlighted the campaigns, services, and events we provide and how students can get involved with their students' union. The session had a Q&A section, and a panel with international students who shared their experiences with incoming students. Overall the event was well attended and attendees provided positive feedback.

Chinese Student Orientation

The UTMSU WeChat Team has hosted Chinese Student Orientation for nearly 5 years. It is primarily hosted to help Mandarin speaking students adapt to the new environment and to make friends. This year, it was hosted virtually via Zoom. It included ice breakers, an information session, and messages from professors. Since many students are unable to come to Canada due to the pandemic, a vlog was also made to show them a glance of university life.

Sauga Fest

Sauga Fest is the welcome back week for all students. This year, campus groups were able to table in-person and the UTMSU gave away prizes to members. It was a great way for people to meet new friends and get to know the student groups on campus. As part of the SaugaFest programming, the UTMSU also organized a virtual concert with the incredible artist, Lucky Daye.



Queer Orientation

This year, the UTMSU held three events for Queer Orientation in collaboration with numerous external organizations. Our first event was a social event called *Tie Dying and Mocktails*, where students were able to relax with other 2SLGBTQ+ students while tie dying a sweater and sipping on mocktails! Our next event which was in collaboration with LGBTQOUT (St. George Campus) was called *Create You With Pic Crew*. This event encouraged participants to express their true self using piccrew. Finally, our last event was another 2SLGBTQ+ Town Hall. This was a space for first and upper year students to voice what they want the University to do to better support 2SLGBTQ+ students. We received great feedback from the Town Hall and will actively work to implement the recommendations.



Academic Advocacy Week

The UTMSU hosted their annual Academic Advocacy Week during the week of September 20 - September 24. We invited the Academic Integrity Unit from the Office of the Dean, the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC), and Downtown Legal Services (DLS) to host interactive and informative sessions. The week's presenters discussed academic misconduct, academic offences and appeals, tips and resources to uphold academic integrity, student's academic rights and student rights with respect to campus police. On the final day, the UTMSU gave out burger vouchers and an academic advocacy kit to students who attended at least one of the week's sessions (registration was required). Students were also invited to participate in a Kahoot game, which ran at the start of every hour that quizzed them on academic integrity. The top three winners of each round won a plant. 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.

Halloweek

This year, the UTMSU got in the Halloween spirit and hosted spooky events for members to enjoy. Halloweek started off with a phone zap against the University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy (UMLAP), to tackle one of the scariest policies at UofT. During this event, students called and emailed decision makers across UofT to repeal the policy. Next we hosted the Haunted Carnival, which featured campus groups and their spooky activities. The UTMSU featured its scary take on the lack of accessibility of post secondary education with our "Fright the Fees". We wrapped up Halloweek with our annual haunted house.

Exam Destressors

The UTMSU hosted exam destressors during the fall, winter, and summer exam periods. December 2020 destressors included holiday-themed activities over Zoom such as, Destress and Sip, Origami Night and Games Night. Each offered different ways for students to destress and socialize with their peers online. Another successful destressor that took place was during the summer sessions, where students were able to learn more about academic integrity by playing an interactive game. The UTMSU also hosted an in-person social, where students had the opportunity to meet other students, tie-dye and plant a seed of their choice. Currently, the UTMSU is planning exam destressors for December 2021.



Services

Our services are political. Being a student in Ontario is expensive. To make ends meet, your students' union provides a variety of cost-saving services to help trim the costs of post-secondary education.

We have strength in numbers so whether you're a student or part of a campus group we'll help you cut costs without cutting corners.

Services

The Blind Duck

The Blind Duck 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 Blind Duck 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 was one of the UTMSU's impacted services. When the province was in lockdown, the Blind Duck reduced its operating hours, the number of employees and menu offerings to accommodate take-out orders. Now that some restrictions have been lifted, the Blind Duck has seen an increase in sales and we have hired more staff support. This year, we will be focused on advertising the Blind Duck so that more members know about the cheap food options we offer. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Blind Duck please email our Vice President Internal, Wei Lai at vpinternal@utmsu.ca or our General Manager, Retail Operations Coordinator at 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 COVID-19, the Duck Stop closed during the lockdown. To accommodate students, various snacks and drinks were moved to the Blind Duck at discounted rates. Since Fall 2021, the Duck Stop has been operating at limited hours based on peak times on campus. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Duck Stop please email our Vice President Internal, Wei Lai at vpinternal@utmsu.ca.

International Student Identity Card (ISIC)

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is free for all UTM undergraduate students through our membership in the Canadian Federation of Students. The ISIC has many benefits including domestic and international discounts at Greyhound, ViaRail, Softmoe, Apple and more. Students can get a card for free at isiccanada.ca/cfsfce.

Graduation Photos

The UTMSU provides all UTM graduates with the opportunity to have their photos professionally taken for their respective Graduating Class Composite. Included in a photo session is 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. If you have questions regarding Graduate Photos please email our Vice President Internal, Wei Lai at vpinternal@utmsu.ca.

Health & Dental Plan

UTMSU provides affordable and comprehensive health and dental coverage to over 12,659 full-time members at UTM. Based on our 2020-2021 plan usage review, we saw that a large proportion of our members were prescribed antidepressants. The mental health and wellbeing of our students is our top priority, which is why we have expanded the efforts of our *My Mental Health Matters* campaign through our Peer Support Program. Alongside this program, we have successfully increased the amount of visits to see a mental health professional from 20 to 25 visits during a benefit year. Additionally, Green Shield Canada (GSC) has provided accessible virtual health support, 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.

With many activities operating virtually throughout the past two years, we saw an increase in Vision Care usage. More

students behind digital screens meant more visits to the optometrist. In order to support this lifestyle change, we upgraded our Vision Care coverage to \$200 every 24 months. This designated amount can be used towards eye examinations or the purchase of prescription glasses/contacts.

In response to international travel restrictions, the UTMSU alongside GSC offered international students at UTM the option of dis-enrolling from the UTMSU health and dental plans for the 2020-20201 and 2021-2022 academic year. This means that students who are unable to study in Canada for the 2021-2022 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 Student Centre Building. If you have questions regarding the health and dental plans please email health@utmsu.ca.

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. In 2019, the UTMSU successfully negotiated an extension to the U-Pass contract for the next three years with the Mississauga Transit provider, MiWay.

In February 2021, the UTMSU successfully lobbied the City of Mississauga for a rebate considering that many students were unable to use their U-Pass. The program was suspended in Summer 2021 due to the fact that most courses were offered online. The program relaunched in Fall 2021 and more than 50% of the student membership have picked up their U-Pass. There will be a second mass distribution in the Winter semester to accommodate more students being on campus.

The UTMSU is circulating a U-Pass survey to solicit feedback from members about how safe they feel traveling to and from campus during the pandemic and for general feedback on the U-Pass program.

This information will be used to lobby the City of Mississauga for improved transit access and service.

If you have questions regarding the U-Pass Program, please email our Vice President Internal, Wei Lai at vpinternal@utmsu.ca or the U-Pass Program coordinator at upass@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 selected and trained over 25 volunteers to help administer this service in 2021. This service is available to every student, whether they are domestic or international. Due to the pandemic, we held our 2021 Tax Clinic virtually. For the upcoming 2022 clinic, we are planning on hosting a hybrid clinic. This hybrid clinic will offer students the opportunity to file their taxes online or in-person.

Students are encouraged to contact taxclinic@utmsu.ca with any questions about our upcoming 2022 clinic.

Printing Services

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 double-sided to ensure sustainability. In past years, we printed 358,919 pages at the Student Centre. In order to make our printing services more accessible, we purchased new printing machines and installed a new software to allow students to print from their laptops and phones. Students can now login-in online to add or manage their accounts and available funds. This has helped 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.

Discounts

The UTMSU provides a variety of discount codes and coupons to students so they can save money. Current discounts include: \$10 Boston Pizza coupons worth \$20 in-store, discounted Cineplex tickets, Classic Bowling tickets, a 50\$ discount code on Domino's pizza, and more. These tickets are available at the InfoBooth. A detailed list of available discounts can be found at: utmsu.ca/service/discounts/

If you have any questions regarding the discounts, please email our Vice President Internal, Wei Lai at 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 bursaries and those who are approved, the range of bursaries a student may receive varies. Over the last year, the UTMSU was able to distribute \$117,000 in bursaries. The four bursaries we offered are a general needs-based bursary, a COVID grant, a childcare bursary, and a U-PASS accessibility grant. This year we added two new bursaries which are the International Student Needs-based Bursary as well as the Racialized Community Involvement Grant. If you have questions regarding the Bursaries Program please email our Vice President Equity, Ryan Tomlinson at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

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, Ryan Tomlinson at vp-equity@utmsu.ca.

Academic Advocacy

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, petitions and appeals, understanding University's policies and procedure. Additionally, the UTMSU held their Academic Advocacy Week in September and through interactive sessions, raised awareness about student academic rights and academic resources and responsibilities at UofT. For questions related to Academic Advocacy please contact our Vice President, Merica Joy Carlos, at vpua@utmsu.ca.

Food Centre

The Food Centre is a space on campus for students to access alternative healthy food, hygiene products, and community. 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/.

Additionally, the Centre is planning to expand its services by moving to the Student Centre for a bigger and better space! The new and improved Food Centre will include a seed library and gardening materials to support students. The UTMSU applied and received the Adams Sustainability Grant to help fund this initiative.

Mental Health Peer Support Program

The Mental Health Peer Support Program was launched this past year. It is a new service hosted in collaboration with Stella's Place. The UTMSU understands that there is a lack of mental health resources and support available to students at UTM which is why we developed 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 over 50 Peer Support volunteers.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, there are over 40 volunteers that received extensive training to ensure that they are equipped to handle various situations and continue to meet with participants to ensure that the program is successful throughout the year. During these sessions, feedback will be collected from students so the service can constantly improve.

This year, we will be creating a physical space for the Peer Support Centre. It is expected to open in Winter 2022.

For questions related to the Mental Health Peer Support Program please contact our President Mitra at president@utmsu.ca.

UTMSU Textbook Exchange Program

The UTMSU launched a brand new service for members called the Textbook Exchange Program. We know that on-top of tuition fees, textbooks can burn holes in students' pockets. The textbook exchange allows students to drop off and pick up textbooks they need for class, free of charge. Why? Because an accessible education is a right!

The program currently operates on Tuesdays and Fridays. In order to use the service, students need to book an appointment using the google form on our website and then come to the Student Centre for their appointment.

Beyond the textbook exchange, the UTMSU is working with the UTM Library to source open access resources to encourage professors to include those works in their syllabi instead of expensive, publisher-owned textbooks.

For any questions or inquiries related to the textbook exchange program, email our president Mitra at president@utmsu.ca.

Job Readiness Support

The Job Readiness Support Program is a new service that was implemented this academic year. Its purpose is to help students prepare for work life outside of university. The program has opportunities for students to network, learn, and participate in many workshops catered to job readiness. The workshops consist of topics like resume and cover letter writing, mock-interviews, and networking. Additionally, an added service is the professional headshots, which is a free service for students who need to get their professional photo(s) taken. To make this program a success, we collaborate with academic societies and on campus departments, such as the Career Centre, to outreach and engage members.

Gym Equipment Rental and Health & Wellness Program

The UTMSU is committed to launching services that meet the needs of our members which is why we launched the Health and Wellness Program.

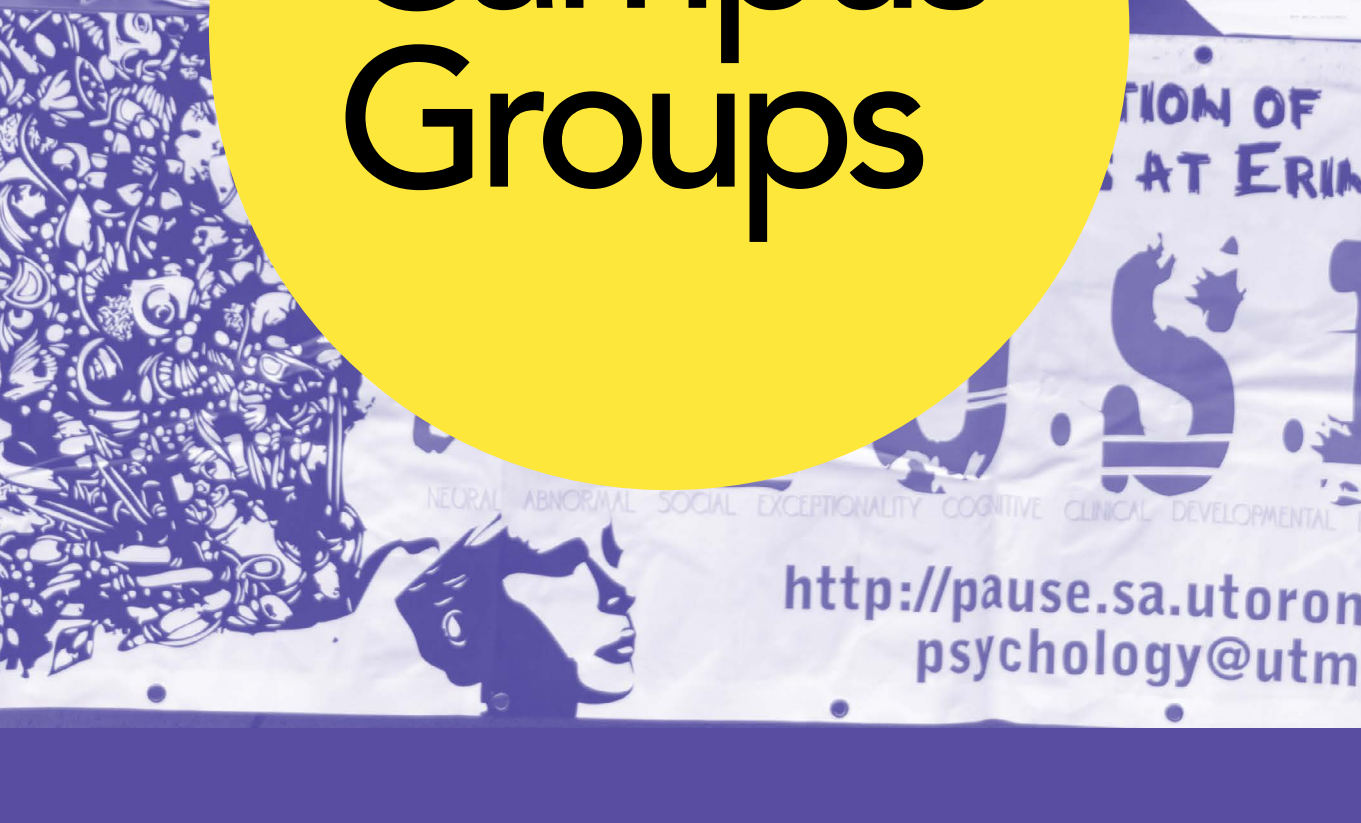
During the beginning phases of the UTMSU Health and Wellness Program, we launched a survey to better understand the health and wellness needs of UTM students. The results from this survey are being used to organize events, services, and programming to better the physical and mental wellbeing of students. The first event for the program was a yoga session led by a professional instructor.

In addition to events and programming, the UTMSU will be launching the Gym Equipment Rental in Winter, which will allow members to rent out at-home workout equipment completely free of charge.

If you have any ideas for our Health and Wellness program or any questions or inquiries please contact our President, Mitra at president@utmsu.ca!



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. 2021-2022 (re)recognition was completed virtually, where 118 clubs and 17 academic societies were (re)recognized. Campus group executives submitted various forms, such as updated constitutions, member lists, and executive member lists. The (re)recognition process also allowed for members with outstanding initiatives to send in proposals for new UTMSU clubs. Upon successful completion, clubs were recognized by the UTMSU Clubs Committee, resulting in a growth in the campus group 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 based on enrollment numbers of each program. 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

The UTMSU conducts audits biannually for campus groups. Audits ensure that funding for campus groups are used appropriately and that there is no financial mismanagement from campus group executives. In order to receive future funding, campus groups must pass their audits. For the 2021-2022 academic year, Campus groups will be submitting audits for the fall semester at the end of November, and for the Winter Semester in the summer months.

Campus Groups Trainings

The UTMSU hosts several trainings and workshops for campus group 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. Other training topics include consent, equity, and good finances, budgeting, and sponsorship. The UTMSU has hosted four training sessions so far to help with recognition packages and to transition incoming executives. The upcoming training sessions will focus on audits and finances.

Collaborative, Emergency and Green Grants Funding Pools

These funding pools are allocated for campus groups to apply for in case they need extra funding for their initiatives. The Collaborative Fund is to encourage collaboration amongst clubs, societies, and the UTMSU. The Emergency Fund is a pool of funds set aside in case a campus group experiences an unexpected and significant financial loss. Green Grants are grants given to those who are starting a new sustainable/green initiative and need extra funding and/or resources. Collectively, there been 4 applications from various campus groups to access these funds, and all have been approved by their respective committees.

Academic Society Advisory Committee (ASAC)

ASAC is the committee responsible for supporting and overseeing the 17 existing Academic Societies at UTM. The committee has three UTMSU representatives and three representatives from the Office of the Dean, as both groups co-fund the Academic Societies. The committee's primary responsibilities are to allocate funding, approve re-recognition and supervise elections. Throughout the last few months the committee has met to discuss Academic Society funding allocations and space. The committee successfully passed the first semester's funds.

Clubs Committee

The Clubs Committee is a committee responsible for supporting and overseeing UTMSU recognized clubs. It is composed of 3 UTMSU executives, 3 board members and 2 staff (the Executive Director and the Campus Groups Coordinator). The committee's primary responsibilities are to allocate funding, (re)recognize new and existing clubs, supervise elections, and approve collaborative and emergency funding requests. The committee has met 5 times throughout this academic year, mainly to recognize clubs and approve collaborative funding requests.



Internal Meetings

UofT Wide Emergency Mental Health Meeting

Student mental health has been a veritable crisis at UofT for multiple years, and it's clear that unless students take decisive, united action, 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.

The UofT Student Mental Advocacy and Resource Team (abbreviated to SMART) was created in November 2020; it is a community-led, tri-campus initiative dedicated to improving students' mental health and wellbeing. The UTMSU, along with other UofT unions and students joined monthly meetings to discuss priorities, joint actions or collaborative initiatives to improve mental health at UofT, lobby the university to take action to better support students (academically and otherwise), and offer quality mental health resources, and discuss students' response to policies and decisions such as UMLAP.

Anti-Oppression Trainings

Throughout the summer, the UTMSU executives and full-time staff completed a series of trainings covering the following topics: Creating Safer Spaces, Bystander Intervention, Combating Anti-Black Racism, Islamophobia, and Anti-Semitism, Queer and Trans Inclusive Workplaces, and Mental Health Support. These trainings were held by various coalition partners to help equip the UTMSU executives and staff with the tools and skills needed to support members and the greater UTMSU team (including board members, part time staff, and volunteers).

Quality Service to Students (QSS) Council Meetings

The QSS Council is a forum for students and service administrators to explore and improve the quality of student services. The UTMSU has 6 votes on the council and makes recommendations based on student feedback regarding various student services (e.g. Career Centre, Recreational, Athletics and Wellness Centre, International Education Centre, etc.) and the fees collected for those services. Additionally, the Vice President External from the UTMSU was nominated as the UTM representative to sit on the Council on Student Services, which is the forum for discussion of student services at the tri-campus level.

University of Toronto Mississauga Athletic Council (UTMAC)

At the beginning of the 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.

This year, the UTMSU and UTMAC successfully collaborated on a Field Day for Orientation. The Field Day event was successful for both organizations as we were able to provide a day filled with physical activity and make connections with incoming students. We are also looking forward to having more collaborative events and continuing to build on our partnership throughout the year.

University of Toronto Mississauga Residence Council (UTMRC)

During the summer, 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.

The UTMSU will continue to stay connected with UTMRC executives, and hope to hold some collaborative events in the future.

Censure UofT

In April 2021, the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) took the rare and serious decision to censure the University of Toronto. CAUT has determined that the University's administration failed "to resolve concerns regarding academic freedom stemming from a hiring scandal in the Faculty of Law". Relying on undisputed evidence contained in a report by Mr. Thomas Cromwell, CAUT concluded that a donor/judge's objections to Dr. Valentina Azarova, based on her scholarship on Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territories, influenced the University's decision to rescind an offer of a position as Director of the International Human Rights Program.

The UTMSU was in full support of the censure on UofT. Representatives attended weekly Censure UofT coalition meetings to discuss demands of the censure, upcoming actions, and areas of collaboration and support. UTMSU executives also took part in various actions such as rallies and protests, and supported the work of the coalition, other students' unions, and the UTM Palestinian Student Association (PSA) in any way possible.

Following the hiring scandal of Dr Valentina Azarova, the UTMSU also held a phone and email zap in support of Palestine and the censure of UofT. The main goal of which was to unite students and call on UofT to re-offer the position of Director of the International Human Rights Program (IHRP) to Dr. Azarova; to issue a public acknowledgement and accept responsibility for the factual inaccuracy and misleading assertions found in the Cromwell report; and to truly commit to decolonization by divesting from all weapons and arms manufacturing companies that directly benefit colonial states like Israel and contribute to human rights violations.

These actions were successful. UofT reoffered the role to Dr. Azarova on September 17, 2021.



External Meetings

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

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 national student movement. 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 from November 16 -18.

Ontario Executive Committee Meetings

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 Vice President External, Maëlis Barre.

Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario (CFS-Ontario)

The Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario represents over 350,000 students across Ontario to the provincial government and works on local campaigns and services to better represent members. Similar to the CFS, the CFS-Ontario has an annual general meeting in August where students submit motions and talk about provincial student issues.

The UTMSU executives attended the CFS-Ontario General Meeting in August. During the general meeting UTMSU President, Mitra Yakubi, was elected as the CFS-Ontario Chairperson for the upcoming academic term starting May 2022.

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 works with Stella's Place to host the Mental Health Peer Support Program. UTMSU executives meet monthly with representatives from Stella's Place to discuss project development, feedback, and next steps.

HOUSE/CERA

The UTMSU met with different organizations focused on equitable, safe and affordable housing. We met with Housing Ontario University Students Equitably (HOUSE), which is an organization that advocates for, researches, and develops affordable and community-oriented student housing that benefits individuals and communities. We also met with the Center for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA), a not-for-profit charity working to advance the right to adequate housing. These meetings serve the purpose of uniting our housing advocacy efforts in Peel.

City of Mississauga Office of the Mayor

The UTMSU met with Mayor Bonnie Crombie and Councillor Matt Mahoney on November 1. This initial meeting served as a way for us to outline students' priorities for the year, and set the foundation for subsequent meetings with the Mayor, city councillors, and other municipal decision makers. During this meeting, the UTMSU discussed affordable student housing and access to transit for members across the GTA. The UTMSU will be scheduling subsequent meetings to discuss these issues further and hopes to see student housing be added to the City's Housing Strategy.

Black Community Engagement

The Black Community Engagement consultations were designed to empower and encourage Mississauga's Black communities to gain greater insights and access to the City's resources as well as its social and political institutions. Some of the consultations that the UTMSU's Vice President Equity attended included, *Policing, justice and law enforcement, and Local, provincial and federal political institutions*. These spaces allowed Black community members to express their concerns within Mississauga, as well as to develop goals for black empowerment.

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 have completed over 10 interviews with campus media (the Varsity and the Medium). These interviews covered topics including orientation week, WUSC, international students and their experiences, COVID-19 and the union's response, the Education For All campaign, the launch of the Peer Support Program and more.

Newsletters

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

Statements

Over the last few months, the UTMSU released 12 statements on issues pertaining to the U-Pass program, the Education for All campaign, the censure against UofT, and statements of solidarity with Afghan, and Indigenous communities across Turtle Island. All UTMSU statements may be found on the [UTMSU website](#)

Social Media

The UTMSU's social media saw increases across all platforms.



6.5k

followers

↑ up 1.4k from 5.5k



1.1k

followers

↑ up 45%



7.6k

followers



3k

followers

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, high quality and accessible post-secondary education, safe and affordable housing, 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
- The University of Toronto Faculty Association (UTFA)
- Fight for \$15 and Fairness
- Meal Exchange
- TTC Riders
- National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)
- Ontario Federation of Labor (OFL)
- UTILE
- Censure UofT
- Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)
- Downtown Legal Services (DLS)



Finances



Overview of the UTMSU Budget

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.

The pandemic significantly impacted the UTMSU's finances, as most services were temporarily closed. The UTMSU adapted a number of essential services, events and campaigns to accommodate online learning and slowly implemented in-person programming while following all provincial and university safety guidelines in Summer 2021.

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 our Auditors

As ratified at the November 2020 AGM, the UTMSU auditors for the 2020-2021 audit are Yale PGC LLP. The firm has provided a range of services including completion of statutory audits and preparation of review and compilation engagements since 1953. This was the second year that Yale PGC LLP audited 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.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA STUDENTS' UNION 2021