

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

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



@myUTMSU

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Letter to Members

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU). Over the course of the past year, the UTMSU has been hard at work to meet students where they are and support our membership in various ways: whether that be providing cost-saving services, organizing collective power to advocate for students' rights, or building our community through events and initiatives. We are excited to meet again for this AGM - this time in person! - to reflect on and share some of the work we've done together, and to collectively consider what direction we want to give our union moving forward.

This past year has seen us come out of the pandemic, with a return to in-person classes and initiatives. It has been a challenging time for most students, but also a time to rediscover what it means to create a UTM community, what it means to build student collective power, what it means to be there for each other. It has been a time to build back our pre-pandemic world, but better - through improving what didn't work pre-covid, and challenging systems that no longer serve students.

Since our last AGM, the UTMSU has continued to work on the campaigns that matter most to students. We believe that education is a fundamental right, and should be made free and accessible for all. But that is not the be all and end all of our work, we also need to ensure that our post-secondary institutions are inclusive, that we create safer spaces for all students, that we build and maintain a quality learning environment.

Additionally, the UTMSU has expanded on the services that help save students money. These include the opening of the Peer Support Program Centre, the renovation of our Food Centre, scaling up our bursary program, adding more coverage as part of the Health & Dental plan, renegotiating the U-Pass program, and more. The UTMSU also continues to run the tax clinic, the graduation photography sessions, the textbook exchange program, the laptop rental program, the gym equipment rental program, and the job readiness support program.

Finally, we've sought to build community, and create strong ties between students. A lot of that work was done through events such as Orientation, Sauga Fiesta, Hallo-Week, Academic Advocacy Week, Free Breakfast Wednesdays, Frost Week, Multicultural Week, Pride Month programming, Black History Month programming, numerous summer events, and more!

Over the last year, students have made a significant and positive impact on the UTM community, but the work doesn't end there. As students, we hold so much power when we are united, when we organise, when we come together and strive for a common goal.

Always remember that, the students united will never be defeated.

- The UTMSU Executive Team

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:

Arnav Nagzirkar
Thammathorn (Tham) Paweewan

Division 2

Directors At-Large:

Cyrus Joshua Mena
Niguel Walker
Zinah Alsleman
Annie Bhaskar
Mohammad Safwan Zahid
Xiyu (Charlotte) Wang
Robert Le
Fatima Abbas
Yunqi (Eddy) Zhang

Division 3

Part-Time Director:

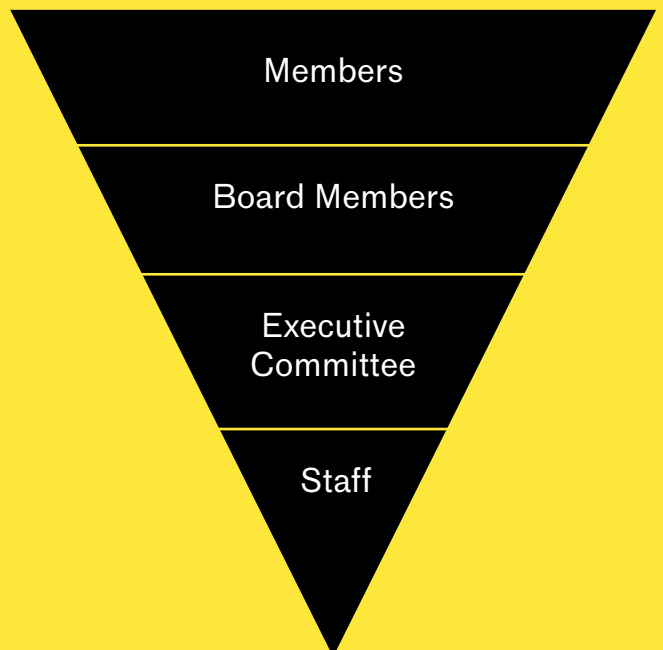
Vacant

Division 4

MAM Director:

Chidalu Edechi

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 and Advocacy

FIGHT THE FEES

cfsfcée

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Education for All

The Education for All (Ed4All) campaign was launched to persuade the University of Toronto Governing Council and both Provincial and Federal Governments to make post-secondary education high-quality, accessible and free. The campaign has been revised to reflect the post-pandemic period, and we have reduced the demands to be broader and more encompassing of the realities of students. Find them below

1. Immediate reduction and gradual elimination of tuition fees for all students
2. Conversion of student loans into student grants
3. Creation of alternatives to mainstream education
 - Increased paid experiential learning, internship positions and CO-OP opportunities for students
 - Provision of an online option for undergraduate classes
 - Improvement of accessibility services
4. Increase non-academic scholarships for students
 - Increased awards and grants for black and indigenous students
5. Eliminate Out-Of-Province tuition hikes

One of the new demands of the campaign is to provide an online option for classes, students should be given the opportunity to attend class synchronously via video call or asynchronously through recorded lectures. A hybrid delivery of class content will make postsecondary education more accessible.

Another new demand is the elimination of Out-Of-Province tuition hikes. On March 31, 2022, UofT's Governing Council passed its proposed tuition fee schedule for the 2022-2023 academic year. The schedule calls for an increase of non-Ontario domestic students' fees by three percent. The new fee schedule will harm regional diversity and essentially discourage Out-Of-Province students from attending UofT which is already one of the country's most expensive universities.

To achieve our demands, we collaborated with the Canadian Federation of Students to promote the "Demand our future" campaign which had the aim of mobilizing students to vote in the Provincial elections for several demands including the elimination of tuition fees for postsecondary education.

Also, the UTMSU organized an Education for All banner drop in the Davis building to raise awareness about the campaign and educate our membership about the revised demands. The banner drop was dubbed as a Fright the Fees Protest in line with the Halloweek theme. We also launched our Education for all survey in October to collect relevant data for our lobbying efforts with the university administration during Lobby week in the Winter semester. It was a huge success as we collected 1,500+ responses from students.

Finally, we met with MP Iqra Khaled, to bring up student priorities in terms of free education. In the meeting, we discussed the need for a post-secondary education act, and spoke about her private bills.



EDUCATION FOR ALL CONTACT

Maëlis Barre, UTMSU President
president@utmsu.ca

Food Services

According to the Hungry for Knowledge report put together by Meal Exchange, nearly 40% of post-secondary students experience food insecurity, which is unacceptable. The UTMSU believes that campus food services should always be accessible to students, meaning that our members should not be forced to choose between affording their education and affording to put food on the table.

The UTMSU continues to advocate for food security for all students. Demands will be included in the UTMSU Lobby Week planned for the Winter Semester, where we will be lobbying the UTM administration, as well as all members of the Food Services Advisory Committee, to take steps to ensure all students have access to affordable, healthy, accessible, and diverse food options at UTM.

Additionally, the UTMSU holds two seats on the Food Services Advisory Committee. During these meetings, we reviewed the budget put forward by the Hospitality & Ancillary Services Team. We also provided feedback we have received directly from members, namely demanding more diverse food options (including halal, kosher, vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, etc.), more affordable food options on campus, extended opening hours in the evening and on weekends, and making quality control information readily available to students.



FOOD SERVICES CONTACT

Reagan Roopnarine, UTMSU, VP Equity
vpequity@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 Demands of this Campaign are to:

1. **Introduce a cap on international tuition fees**
2. **Reinstate OHIP for International Students**
3. **Increase funding and scholarships for international students**
4. **End the 20-hour work rule for study permit holders.**

The UTMSU expanded the International Students Roundtable to a Forum. The first Forum took place during Multicultural Week. In attendance was the International Education Centre, Migrant Students United and the Canadian Federation of Students. Our partner organizations informed students about ways they can support the fight for more equitable rights for international students. Afterwards, we had a scenario based discussion focused on housing rights, prevention of scams, working as an international student and the impact of being part time versus full-time as an international student.

Furthermore, the UTMSU has been working on an International Students Survival Guide to ease the transition into UTM. The guide focuses on essential university resources, International

Education Centre, working as an International student, housing, health, city of Mississauga, transportation in Mississauga, and information about Migrant Students United. A draft of the international students survival guide was presented at the international students forum for feedback from students. In the past year, we collaborated with Migrant Students United to protest for Permanent status for all. During the action, we covered the office door of Omar Al-Ghabra (Minister of Transport and Member of Parliament for Mississauga Centre) with posters calling for immediate permanent residency status for all undocumented migrants in Canada and those with a temporary status.



FOR INQUIRIES OR TO GET INVOLVED:

Alistair Kirk, UTMSU VP External
vpexternal@utmsu.ca

My Mental Health Matters

The My Mental Health Matters campaign advocates for students to have access to the mental health resources and services they need on campus, and ensure that the University creates a healthy learning environment.

We have also organized exam destressors to ensure students still prioritize their mental health during exam season, and are given the space to decompress and take a break. Such exam destressors including a Health & Wellness Workshop this past summer, which addressed topics such as dealing with stress in a healthy manner.

Additionally, to make up for the lack of mental health resources and support available to students at UTM, the UTMSU is still operating its Peer Support Program, which has just been launched in person, with the opening of a brand new Peer Support Center within the Student Centre.



FOR INQUIRIES OR TO GET INVOLVED:

Maëlis Barre, UTMSU President
president@utmsu.ca

Consent is Mandatory

The Consent is Mandatory campaign aims to foster a culture of consent on and off our campus.

This year, the UTMSU is challenging the University to amend their Sexual Violence Policy. Having a progressive and survivor-centric Sexual Violence Policy is critical to the safety and dignity of all students.

This work is building on last year's Combatting Sexual Violence on Campus TownHall. As well as the 101 Consent training that was open to all students and moderated by Jensen Williams. Jensen is a violence prevention educator whose work focuses on combatting sexual violence, dating violence and human trafficking.

Additionally, we have hosted a series of events and spaces for students to have conversations around consent. The main event was the Consent Culture Forum that happened during the XAO: Consent Edition in early October, where students gathered to have conversations on guided questions around consent culture on campus

Moving forward, we will continue to collect student feedback, lobby for more effective policies around sexual violence, and spread awareness about how to create a culture of consent.



FOR INQUIRIES OR TO GET INVOLVED:

Reagan Roopnarine, UTMSU, VP Equity
vpequity@utmsu.ca

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 Student Refugee Program (SRP) at UTM. WUSC's primary campaign of refugee resettlement program.

Every year, WUSC and UTMSU help to resettle one student to UTM. Since 2008, UTM students have successfully resettled fourteen students. The UTMSU's WUSC committee along with a group of passionate volunteers, work to support the new student, host events for refugee awareness, and outreach about the Student Refugee Program and WUSC.

This year, some of the WUSC events included a giveaway, and information and training sessions to involve the student community. The local committee also hosted a Nature Walk Fundraiser and a Chocolate Bar Fundraiser.

WUSC CONTACT:

Razan Akiba, WUSC Coordinator
wusc@utmsu.ca

STUDENT HOUSING CONTACT:

Alistair Kirk, UTMSU VP External
vpexternal@utmsu.ca

Access to Student Housing

Students deserve access to housing! The UTMSU Housing Committee takes up multiple responsibilities like working towards ensuring that all students have access to safe and low-cost housing. Members of the housing committee have been given the mandate to increase on-campus and off-campus housing, educate students on tenant rights, lobby for affordable housing in the Peel Region and to conduct UTM specific housing research.

We worked with the UTM Pre-Law Organization to deliver a housing legal workshop. Margaret Flynn, program Lawyer from the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights, talked to students about tenant rights regarding rent increases, fair processes, maintenance, and more.

Moreover, the UTMSU has been in regular meetings with external housing organizations such as Housing Ontario University Students Equitably (HOUSE Canada), UTILE (a housing organization in Quebec), Justice for Peel Coalition and the Right to Housing Coalition led by Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR).

Finally, UTMSU has been conducting UTM specific housing research to understand the unique challenges faced by our students. In the past year, we shared a survey organized by UTILE and another created by the housing committee. Both surveys will produce housing data that will help the UTMSU make well-informed decisions.

Academic Advocacy

Academic Advocacy is one of our many campaigns and is not solely focused on 'academics'. Academic Advocacy aims to ensure all students have the proper accommodations when they need support. As such, the UTMSU is lobbying to extend the credit non-credit deadline (CR/NCR) to the last day students receive their final grades. Extending the deadline will allow students to make a fair and an informed decision when choosing the option to CR/NCR. We are also lobbying for a fair Academic integrity process. This includes ensuring students view the evidence against them well in advance as well as ensuring their meetings are scheduled within an appropriate time frame, so students are not waiting months for their meeting and hindering their academic progress.



ACADEMIC ADVOCACY CONTACT:

Suraqa Noor, UTMSU Vice President
University Affairs
vpua@utmsu.ca

Provincial and Municipal Elections

During the past year, we have had two important elections: Provincial and Municipal. The UTMSU organized around the elections to increase voter literacy and allow for students to have greater access to the platforms of candidates, that way they could make an educated vote on voting days. During the Provincial Elections, members of the executive committee met with multiple candidates and asked about their platforms and plans to address student issues. During the Municipal Elections, the UTMSU hosted a municipal debate for the Mayoral Candidates from the City of Mississauga. That alongside constant outreach to students was how both campaigns took place.

Events

Venture '22: Orientation Week

Venture 22 consisted of academic workshops, campus group introductions, group activities, wonderful performances and a mind blowing illusionist show, huge carnival with many rides, glow in the dark pub night, the paint and foam party, outdoor movie night, escape room, the boat cruise, a formal and most importantly a concert featuring Swae Lee and Smiley.

The 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 endeavors.

This year, the theme for Orientation focused on awareness of climate change. Venture Grids are named after the four elements and the Houses are named after threatened or endangered animals. Our goal with this theme is to raise awareness about this pressing issue and promote responsibility for caring for our Earth, its resources, and all the forms of life that inhabit this planet with us.

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, there was a Mix N Mingle for the first and second years only on January 13th, and then one specific for 3rd years only on January 18th. Frost Week also contained a dirty bingo which was the 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 of a back-to-school giveaway.

Culture Fest meets XAO

In November 2022, we had our Culture Fest. The series of events began with a Cultural brunch which included cultural food from diverse backgrounds. We fed over 100 students various treats from around the globe, such as butter chicken, rice, spring rolls, doubles, noodles, and pastas. Cultural fest this year also focused on collaborating with campus groups; this year, we collaborated with the Afghan student association on a cooking initiative. The goal of this event was to fight food inaccessibility on campus and also draw attention to the food crises in Afghanistan. Finally, cultural fest concluded with a virtual workshop on fighting for free education in Ontario and beyond. This was a space for students to come together and have active conversations on what free education looks like and what type of advocacy work needs to be done.

Black History Month

Last year's 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, 12 Jurors, and the annual "Love, Sex and Relationships" which is always a member favourite. We also hosted My Roots My Foundation, a networking event where attendees met Black professionals from a diverse number of fields. Next was a destressing Sip & Paint. Finally, we wrapped up the month with a Games/ Open Mic Night

Exam Destressors

The UTMSU hosted exam destressors during the fall, winter, and summer exam periods. During winter 2021, the exam destressors included a dog therapy session, a knitting session where students learned how to knit. Additionally, late night dinners were offered to students at the Student Center as well. For the spring destressors, the UTMSU brought back dog therapy due to popular demand, followed by late night dinners and a VolunTEAM Cafe.

The UTMSU organized two exam de-stressors during the summer semester, including a painting session where students were invited to sit in groups and paint on canvases that they could then use as decoration. The second Summer de-stressor was a point painting event, where students would first paint their pots with their friends and then pot their plants. The events gave students the opportunity to relax, socialize, and make new connections prior to the return to fully in-person classes.

Chinese Student Orientation

The UTMSU WeChat Team has been hosting the Chinese Student Orientation for nearly 6 years. In the beginning of this year, the WeChat Team meetings were hosted virtually via Zoom. The WeChat Team also made vlogs to show a glance of university life with introduction of UTMSU services and UTM courses for those students who were unable to come to Canada due to the pandemic. Recently, the WeChat Team hosted the in-person Chinese Student Orientation that involved over 120 students in the Blind Duck Pub. The orientation not only presented students with the introduction of UTMSU, but also provided students with entertaining ice breaking activities, food, lotteries, as well as Kahoot games to give students an interactive understanding of UTM facilities and UTMSU services.



Sauga Fiesta & Academic Advocacy Week

The UTMSU hosted their annual Academic Advocacy Week in collaboration with Sauga Fiesta during the week of September 12 - September 15. In collaboration with Sauga Fiesta, we provided a free BBQ for students.

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 Sauga Fiesta programming, we also had a BBQ lunch where students were able to come together and enjoy a lunch together and meet other students.

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. 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 AA week started with a Q/A drop in session led by UTMSU's Vice-President University Affairs and Academic Advocacy Coordinator, then continued with workshops regarding academic skills building and learning how to petition and appeal. Students were also invited to participate in a Kahoot game that quizzed students about academic integrity and student rights.

Halloweek

Halloweek started off on Monday with a Trick or Treat at the UTMSU where we outreached to students for the different initiatives we have on campus and talked to students about the Education 4 All survey. We also hosted the Halloween movie night. The UTMSU featured its scary take on the high tuition fees with our "Fright the Fees" protest and banner drop in the Davis Building. Next we had our Halloween haunted house with a turn out of 200 students which was super spooky and fun. Additionally we also had a Haunted Village which featured campus groups and their spooky activities. We wrapped up Halloweek with our annual Halloween pub night and a spooky Sip and Paint.

Pride Month

June is Pride Month, which is why the UTMSU organized numerous events to celebrate the LGBTQ2S+ community, and give space for students to connect in person, since these are the first in person Pride celebrations in 2 years.

The first event was a Launch BBQ & Flag Drop! We collaborated with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office (EDIO) and UTM's Positive Space Team to drop the Progress Flag outside the Student Centre. We had 2 speakers - Professor Elspeth Brown representing faculty, and Maëlis Barre, the UTMSU president representing students. After the flag drop, students had the opportunity to get lunch and mingle with each other. We then hosted a Queer Social within the Student Centre, which comprised of Dirty Bingo and other activities - it was a chance for queer and trans students to come together as a community, get to know each other, and socialize. We then hosted a Pride Dinner & Movie Night, where we watched *The Devil Wears Prada*, giving students yet another space to build community.

Finally, the last initiative we hosted for Pride Month was the LGBTQ2S+ Talks. This was a space for queer and trans students to come and voice the challenges they face on campus and in their classrooms because of their identities. As a group, students came up with a list of recommendations and ideas to create safer spaces on campus. This feedback has been brought up by UTMSU executives in various meetings with the UTM administration.

Queer Orientation

This year, the UTMSU held three events for Queer Orientation: Queer-O Breakfast, LGBTQ+ Talks II, and the Queer Social at the Blind Duck Pub. The Queer-O Breakfast was in collaboration with the Food Center's Free Breakfast Wednesday and change for students to talk about food insecurity in a Queer and Trans lens. The LGBTQ+ Talks event was a repeat of the Pride event, and a chance for students to come and have conversations about their realities on been from the community on campus. We ended Queer-O with the Queer Social at the Blind Duck Pub, where we played Dirty Bingo, Trivia and many other games along with the community







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.

The Blind Duck

The Blind Duck is your home away from home. Catering to students' many dietary needs, 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 of legal drinking age can buy and consume alcohol. Students pay \$3.25 for the Blind Duck levy which allows the service to run at student-friendly prices. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Blind Duck was one of the UTMSU's impacted services. Now the Blind Duck has seen an increase in sales and we have hired more staff to accommodate for the larger influx of students in the Pub.

BLIND DUCK CONTACT:

Shane, General Manager, Retail Operations
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 reasonably priced items for our students. As we got more students back to the campus, the sale volume of the Duck Stop increased.

DUCK STOP CONTACT:

Wenhan (Berry) Lou,
 UTMSU VP Internal
vpinternal@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 and graduate students to travel fare-free in Mississauga via MiWay transit authority. Eligibility for this service is determined by the associated U-Pass fee applied to a student's academic invoice during the Fall/Winter terms or the Summer term. Nearly 14,000 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 is currently negotiating an extension to the U-Pass contract for the next three years with the Mississauga Transit provider, MiWay.

UPASS CONTACT:

Wenhan (Berry) Lou,
 UTMSU VP Internal
vpinternal@utmsu.ca

**We distributed over
 13,000 U-Passes in the
 past year!**

Health & Dental Plan

UTMSU provides affordable and comprehensive health and dental coverage to over 12,862 full-time members at UTM. Based on our 2021-2022 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 new online service Inkblot Therapy. Students utilizing Inkblot services receive counseling that is intended, by design, to be longer-term in nature and intent.

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.

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.



HEALTH AND DENTAL CONTACT:

Services Coordinator,
health@utmsu.ca

OR VISIT THE INFOBOOTH IN THE STUDENT CENTRE

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.



GRADUATION PHOTOS CONTACT:

Wenhan (Berry) Lou,
 UTMSU VP Internal
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Tax Clinic

The UTMSU, in collaboration with the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA), offers free tax filing services from mid-March until the end of April. The UTMSU selected and trained over 30 volunteers to help administer this service in 2022. This service is available to every student, whether they are domestic or international. Due to the pandemic, we held our 2022 Tax Clinic virtually. For the upcoming 2023 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.



TAX CLINIC CONTACT:
taxclinic@utmsu.ca

The Tax Clinic operated
Monday - Thursday,
11am - 5pm
for 5 weeks.

Over 140 students
were assisted!

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 each academic session; Summer, Fall, and Winter. Funding depends on the number of students who apply and the number of students who are approved. This Fall, we are offering a Needs-Based Bursary and an International Student's bursary. Any student who is facing financial difficulty for any reason is welcome to apply for a Needs Based Bursary. Additionally, any international student who is facing financial difficulty for any reason is welcome to apply for an International Student Bursary.



BURSARIES CONTACT:
Reagan Roopnarine,
UTMSU VP Equity
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 also believe that students should not have to forfeit sustainability due to budget constraints. As a result, we provide Green 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. Green Grants are available to any student, club, or society that need financial support with a Sustainability Initiative.



GREEN GRANTS CONTACT:

Reagan Roopnarine,
UTMSU VP Equity
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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.

The Food Centre has recently expanded its services by moving to the Student Centre for a bigger and better space! The new and improved Food Centre includes a seed library and gardening materials to support students. The UTMSU applied and received the Adams Sustainability Grant to help fund this initiative.



TO ACCESS OR TO VOLUNTEER:

Food Centre Coordinator,
food@utmsu.ca

Mental Health Peer Support Program

Two years after its original implementation, the UTMSU Peer Support Program has officially been launched in person, with the opening of a brand new Peer Support Centre within the Student Centre!

This program was developed understanding that there is a lack of mental health resources available to students at UTM, and recognizing the importance of peer to peer support and community building. The program's goal is to provide a service that meets the needs of students, and is tailored to each individual.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, our team of 25 passionate volunteers have received extensive training to ensure that they are equipped to support students and navigate various conversations relating to mental health. Such trainings include a general equity and anti-oppression training, a youth peer support training, and a survivor-centric training. Students accessing the program are matched with volunteers with similar lived experiences to ensure they receive the best support possible.

In order to use this service, students can book an appointment through the form available on our website and on social media. Appointments are currently available on Mondays between 11am and 3pm, and on Thursdays between 1pm and 5pm. After the appointment, students are asked to fill out a feedback form so we can constantly improve this service, and to ensure it best meets the needs of members.



FOR INQUIRIES OR TO GET INVOLVED:

Maëlis Barre, UTMSU President
president@utmsu.ca

Job Readiness Support

The preceding academic year saw the continuous of a brand-new service called the Job Readiness Support Program. Its objective is to aid students in being ready for life beyond university, including the workforce. Students in the programme can network, gain knowledge, and take part in a variety of programmes geared toward career preparedness.

The workshops consist of topics like resume and cover letter writing and networking, plus a LinkedIn Photo Shop by the same day.

The UTMSU also provides the Professional Headshots Service every Thursday to help students with their professional journey.

Textbook Exchange Program

The UTMSU has expanded the Textbook Exchange Program in an effort to financially support students on campus. We know that on-top of tuition fees, textbooks can burn holes in students' pockets, and as a union, we believe that students should never have to choose between buying textbooks, and affording other essentials needs, like food or rent. The textbook exchange allows students to drop off and pick up textbooks they need for class, free of charge. Why? Because accessible education is a right!

The program is open to all UTM students, every day of the week, between 10am and 6pm. In order to use this service, students can consult the list of textbooks we currently have, which is available on our website and social media platforms. Students can then drop by the InfoBooth in the Student Centre, to pick up a textbook and exchange it for one of their own, free of charge. The Textbook Exchange Program bookshelf is located in the Green Room - students can also come in to see which textbooks are available in person.

The UTMSU also welcomes textbook donations from students who have textbooks they no longer have a use for, and would like to give back to their community.

Gym Equipment Rental Program

Recognizing that students' mental and physical health are inextricably linked, and that students do not always have the resources available to work out and exercise, the UTMSU has launched the Gym Equipment Rental Program. This program allows students to have access to work-out equipment and use it from the comfort of their home, completely free of charge.

In order to access this service, students can drop by the InfoBooth in the Student Centre, between 10am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. Upon request, and depending on the availability of the equipment, students will receive a bag containing work-out equipment that they can keep for up to 2 weeks at a time (with the possibility of extending the rental period, if needed).

Laptop Rental Program

The UTMSU is committed to the needs of students and firmly believes in helping out those who are in need of financial assistance. As such, and as part of our bursary program, the UTMSU has launched the Laptop Rental Program, to help alleviate the cost of education for students in financial need.

This service is application based, which takes into consideration students' demonstrated financial need. The application can be found on our website, and needs to be submitted to president@utmsu.ca, along with the relevant supporting documents. Students can have access to a laptop for up to a month at a time (with the possibility of extending it), completely free of charge.




FOR TEXTBOOK EXCHANGE, GYM EQUIPMENT, AND LAPTOP RENTAL PROGRAMS:

Maëlis Barre, UTMSU President
president@utmsu.ca

Discounts

The UTMSU provides a variety of discount codes and coupons to students so they can save money. Current discounts include: \$11 Boston Pizza coupons worth \$20 in-store, discounted Cineplex tickets, Classic Bowling tickets and more. These tickets are available at the infoBooth Desk. A detailed list of available discounts can be found at: utmsu.ca/service/discounts.



DISCOUNTS CONTACT:

Wenhan (Berry) Lou,
 UTMSU VP Internal
vpinternal@utmsu.ca

We sold **435** discounted Cineplex tickets, **77** discounted Classic Bowl tickets, and **2,187** Shuttle Bus tickets!



Campus Groups

NEURAL ABNORMAL SOCIAL EXCEPTIONALITY COGNITIVE CLINICAL DEVELOPMENTAL

http://pause.sa.utoron
psychology@utm

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. 2022-2023 (re) recognition was completed virtually, where 101 clubs and 17 academic societies were (re)recognized. 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 funding for 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 2022-2023 academic year, Campus groups will be submitting a Fall Audit (for the fall semester) at the beginning of December. The Winter audit is submitted 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, professionalism, and sponsorship. The UTMSU has hosted four training sessions so far to help with recognition packages and to transition incoming executives.

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 12 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 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.

Room and Table Bookings, and other Resources for Campus Groups

UTMSU recognized groups are able to book spaces in the Student Centre to host meeting, events, fundraisers, and more. The UTMSU also offers after-hours event timeframes for students who may not be able to book during regular hours. The student centre has 4 spaces that can be used for events, excluding the Blind Duck. Groups are also encouraged to use the Great Hall in the Student Centre to table (set up a table and promote their group to students). Campus groups are also encouraged to apply for office and locker space, so that they can store their materials. We currently have 24 groups in an office space and 27 groups assigned to a locker.



Internal Meetings

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.

Committee on Standing

The Committee on Standing reviews appeals made to the Office of the Registrar. These appeals usually pertain to late withdrawing from a course, requesting late CR/NCR, deferring a final exam, etc. It is made up of staff from the Office of the registrar, faculty, and one student representative from the UTMSU. The Vice President External sits on this committee and assesses supporting documents that come with the appeal and then votes on each student's petition.

Council On Student Services (COSS)

The Council on Student Services serves as a space to discuss how student experiences can be enhanced at all three campuses at the University of Toronto. The Vice President External of the UTMSU serves as the representative from the UTM campus and votes on topics regarding central services at UofT.

Food Services Advisory Committee

The UTMSU holds two student seats on the Food Services Advisory Committee Meeting. The committee is responsible for reviewing the hospitality services budget, as well as current and upcoming food services on campus. It is a space where the UTMSU actively advocates for cheaper and more diverse food options on campus, creating pathways for students to provide feedback about food services, making food quality information readily available to all students and expanding food services opening hours.

Transportation & Parking Advisory Committee

The UTMSU also holds three student seats on the Transportation & Parking Advisory Committee. The committee is responsible for reviewing the budget, as well as current and future initiatives regarding transportation at UTM. It is a space where the UTMSU brings up student concerns regarding the high prices of parking passes, and the lack of parking spots available.

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 on the direction of the national student movement. The National General Meeting (NGM) is a space 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 4th - 8th.

The Ontario component of the CFS (CFS-O) hosted the Ontario General Meeting (OGM), which is a similar space hosted to gather with the member locals and set the direction of the student movement provincially. The OGM happened on August 15-18 in a virtual setting.

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 report back what was discussed to their local. The current UTMSU representative on the OEC is the President, Maëlis Barre.

HOUSE and CCHR

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 Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR), 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.

Justice For Peel

Justice for Peel is a coalition of like-minded organizations fighting for a better Peel region. The Vice President External attends bi-weekly coalition meetings to plan actions in relation to the following goals: affordable housing, reliable transit and public safety. We partnered with the Justice for Peel coalition to host a Municipal election town hall.

MP Iqra Khalid

The UTMSU has met with MP Iqra Khalid multiple times, and most recently at the beginning of the semester in September. This meeting was a space for us to push forward student demands in terms of free education, immigration policies for international students, and healthcare. We will continue lobbying federal decision makers to implement a national vision for post secondary education funding.

City of Mississauga Office of the Mayor

The UTMSU met with Mayor Bonnie Crombie on July 27th. 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 councilors, 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.

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 dozens of 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.

Apart from campus media, the Vice President External was interviewed by CBC Toronto about the temporal removal of the 20-hour-per week cap for off-campus work.

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: utmsu.ca/about-us/publications.

Social Media

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



8.4k

followers

↑ up 1.9k from 6.5k



2.2k

followers

↑ up 50%



7.8k

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)
- Stella's Place
- Migrant Students United Project
- Migrant Workers Alliance for Change



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.

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 2022 AGM, the UTMSU auditors for the 2021-2022 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 third 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 \$14.11 per session for full-time and \$1.04 per session for part-time, 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