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University of Toronto Mississauga
Students' Union
LOCAL 109 OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

winter
2023

UTMSU ANNUAL REPORT



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

ANNUAL REPORT

winter
2023



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Students' Union

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    @MYUTMSU

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LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU). Over the course of the past year, your UTMSU has been hard at work to meet and support students' demands 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 to reflect on and share some of the work we've done together, and to collectively consider the direction of our union moving forward.

Since our last AGM, the UTMSU has continued to work on the campaigns that matter most to students: Education for All, Student Centre Expansion, Transit Advocacy, Fairness for International Students, Consent is Mandatory, My Mental Health Matters, Academic Advocacy, Food Security, and Access to Student Housing. 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, and 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 continued operation of the Peer Support Program Center, the renovation of our Food Center, scaling up our bursary program, adding more coverage as part of the Health & Dental plan, renegotiating the Upass 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 aimed to build community and create strong ties between students. A lot of that work was done and will be done through events such as Orientation, 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 semester, together with students, we have made a significant and positive impact on the UTM community, but the work doesn't end there. There is still so much to achieve, from advocating for free and accessible education for all to creating safer spaces on campus that are reflective of our diverse identities. As we've seen over the term, we hold so much power when we are united, when we organise, and when we come together and strive for a common goal.

Always remember, the students united will never be defeated.

*On behalf of the **UTMSU**,*

Gulfy Bekbolatova, President

Ruth Alemayehu, VP Equity

Layana Alnabhan, VP University Affairs

John (Yongxin) Liang, VP Internal

Jasnooor Sandhu, VP Campus Life

Kiki Ayoola, VP External



MEET THE EXECS

From left to right, top to bottom: **John (Yongxin) Liang** (VP Internal), **Kiki Ayoola** (VP External), **Gulfy Bekbolatova** (President), **Ruth Alemayehu** (VP Equity), **Layana Alnabhan** (VP University Affairs), **Jasnooor Sandhu** (VP Campus Life)

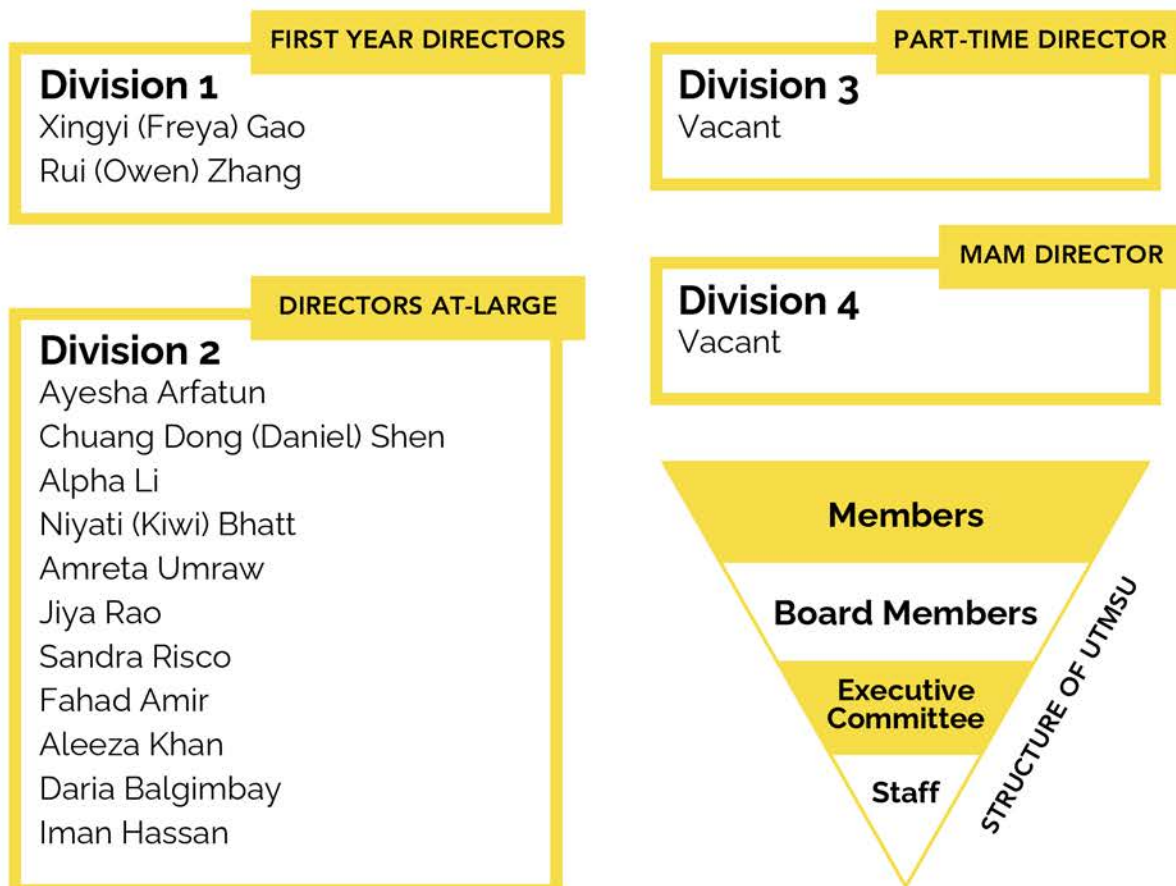
ABOUT THE UTMSU

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

The UTMSU is a **non-profit organization** that abides by the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) and the UTMSU's Constitution and Bylaws, which is 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







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 and proposals, and influences key decision-makers to improve student life. The UTMSU also hosts events throughout the year to promote healthy living, community, and engagement amongst members.

CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY

EDUCATION FOR ALL

The Education for All (Ed4All) campaign was launched to pressure the University of Toronto and the Provincial and Federal Governments to make post-secondary education high-quality, accessible, and free for all students. The demands are as follows:

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
 - a. Increased paid experiential learning, internship positions, and CO-OP opportunities for students
 - b. Provision of an online option for undergraduate classes
 - c. Improvement of accessibility services
4. Increase non-academic scholarships for students
 - a. Increased awards and grants for Black and Indigenous students
5. Eliminate Out-Of-Province tuition hikes

This year, we are focusing on ensuring that members of the UTM Executive Committee,

students, and other stakeholders of the University are aware of the demands and are committed to making education more accessible and affordable for students.

As a Union and as students, it is our ongoing responsibility to advocate for the Education for All campaign within our institutions and community, with the ultimate goal of making education free and accessible for everyone. We understand that this is a long-term endeavour that won't yield immediate results, requiring unwavering advocacy and perseverance. However, we also acknowledge the present financial hardships faced by students and the pressing need for swift improvements.

Therefore, we've been working on identifying "bandaid solutions" to help students deal with the costs of post-secondary education. These "bandaid solutions" are not the ultimate goal; instead, they are solutions that can help mitigate the burdens students face. These include, but are not limited to, more paid experiential learning and more scholarships and bursaries.



As such, this year the UTMSU has been working with the Experiential Education Unit to bring paid co-op internship programs to UTM. This has been a tremendous success as we're anticipating launching the pilot program next year. This means that students will have meaningful paid job opportunities that not only help fund living expenses, but also provide valuable work experience in their relevant studies. To ensure the co-op internship programs are representative of what students want, we created a survey to accurately understand students demands and expectations for this new experiential opportunity.

Moreover, we've been advocating for more scholarships, including scholarships for international students, to diversify the opportunities available to our student body. Our aim is not only to increase the number of scholarships but also to create a more accessible scholarship application portal. To that end, we are working with the Registrar's office to enhance the scholarship portal, making it more user-friendly and enabling students to apply for as many relevant scholarships as possible. We believe that these efforts will help us bring more scholarships and bursaries to students who excel academically and are actively engaged in giving back to their community.

Last but not least, we are bringing the Education For All campaign to Lobby Week! Lobby Week will take place in the Winter semester, and we are so excited to make it even bigger and better. Throughout Lobby Week, we will actively advocate for the Education For All demands, urging both the University and government officials, including Members of Provincial Parliament, to implement crucial changes. However, we also want greater student involvement. Our strength lies in our personal stories and our numbers. By sharing the diverse perspectives of students who are experiencing and have experienced hardships due to post-secondary education, we will create a strong, unified voice that cannot be ignored.

For questions related to the Education For All campaign or to get involved in this campaign please contact our President, Gulfy Bekbolatova, at president@utmsu.ca

STUDENT CENTRE EXPANSION CAMPAIGN

The Student Centre Expansion Campaign was launched to expand our current Student Center due to an increase in the student population and greater demand for UTMSU services! The current Student Centre was constructed in 1999, to accommodate less than 6500 undergraduate students. Now, our campus has over 15,000 undergraduate students and 130+ campus groups. Clearly, the facilities constructed over 20 years ago can no longer adequately support the greater number of campus groups and students.

Therefore, the Student Centre Expansion Campaign was launched to expand the building and bring more space to benefit the UTM community in several ways. This expansion would include constructing more study areas and lounges for students to alleviate campus congestion during exam seasons. Additionally, it would create a larger Blind Duck Pub and kitchen area, reducing waiting times. The increased space in the Student Centre would also offer more bookable rooms for campus groups to host larger and more frequent events. Lastly, the expansion would enable the introduction of new facilities and services, such as an arcade, to benefit students.

Over the Summer and Fall semesters, UTMSU executives have been meeting with campus groups and students, and conducting in-person outreach (and surveys) to identify what spaces students want in their Student Centre. This is to ensure that we have a clear understanding of the student priorities in this expansion.

To have the expansion, the UTMSU ran a referendum to introduce a new levy (fee) to fund the construction of the expanded Student Centre. Since the UTMSU is a non-profit democratic organization, we must ask our members for consent prior to any new fee implementation—in this instance, this was done through a referendum, where students voted in

favour of or against a fee increase to fund the Student Centre Expansion.

Although the referendum did not pass, we will continue conversations about the expansion, gathering more student feedback about the spaces and services they want in their Student Centre. We believe that it is crucial to continue collecting suggestions as we must aim to identify students' priorities as accurately as possible.

For questions related to the Student Centre Expansion campaign or to get involved in this campaign please contact our President, Gulfy Bekbolatova, at 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.

Additionally, the UTMSU holds two seats on the Food Services Advisory Committee. During these meetings, we completed a selection process for the new food provider on campus. The new food provider began its operations in June and carried out throughout the semester. If you have concerns or experiences you want to share about the new food provider, please contact the VP Equity, Ruth at vpequity@utmsu.ca. We are trying to collect feedback to convey student concerns in the committee and bring improvements to our current food options and services.

We are also excited to share that the UTMSU is currently in the process of developing a new Food Centre Sponsorship package. This initiative aims to secure sponsors and additional funding for the Food Centre. By successfully obtaining sponsorships, we can significantly enhance our ability to provide valuable support to the student community. This additional funding would enable us to not only host more frequent free food giveaways, but also expand the variety and quantity of food items distributed to students on a weekly basis.

For any questions or inquiry please contact the VP Equity, Ruth Alemayehu, at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

ACCESS-ABILITY CAMPAIGN

Note takers play a pivotal role in the academic journey of students with accessibility accommodations. Note takers are essential in making sure that students with accessibility needs are able to access the same information and resources as students without accessibility needs.

Despite providing an essential service, note-takers registered with Accessibility Services are not compensated for their efforts, including the many hours spent completing and editing notes for readability. For students who also have other academic, work, personal, etc. responsibilities, it is difficult to prioritize a commitment that is entirely voluntary.

While student feedback on the note-taking program is generally positive, there is room for improvement. Students registered with accessibility services have reported having courses with no notes, or poorly done notes. Thus, the UTMSU is advocating for paid note takers to ensure that both students with accessibility needs and note takers are supported.

In addition to advocating for paid note takers, the UTMSU plans on lobbying the university to provide lecture recordings or lecture notes for students who are unable to attend class due to unforeseen circumstances like mental health crises, family emergencies, and other events out of the students' control.

TRANSIT ADVOCATING PARTY (TAP)

After consistent meetings with MiWay representatives and consultations with Mississauga city councillors, the Transit Advocating Party was the next step of the better transit campaign. The Transit Advocating Party (TAP), was launched in response to student concerns with the current state of MiWay, and to provide students with the opportunity to organize with the aim of improving transit to make it more efficient and student-friendly. Students are seeking improved transit services, with a focus on more efficient routes and the introduction of larger buses to accommodate the growing ridership.

In collaboration with 3 campus groups TAP was designed as a unique and low-commitment opportunity that is also CCR-accredited. It's designated exclusively for UTM students who are interested in stepping into the advocacy space and aims to actively work towards enhancing our transit services.

The Advocating Party is actively searching for more collaborators on campus to increase its membership and gain more perspectives. Whether you're comfortable with public speaking or have an interest in organizing peaceful protests, TAP is the platform used to facilitate change.

In addition to advocating for these essential improvements, over 40 volunteers are committed to collecting valuable research data about public transit experiences in our community, as well as elevating concerns past municipal levels through various escalation tactics such as sit-ins, protests, and more. These actions will enable us to engage in meaningful conversations with local government officials and participate in relevant committees to bring about positive changes to our public transit system.

For any questions related to the Transit Advocating Party please contact our Vice President External, Kiki Ayoola, vpexternal@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 ensure safer spaces are present in and out of the classrooms, and urging the UTM community to create a culture of consent within our campus. This campaign was launched because the UTMSU understands that there is a power dynamic between instructors and students in a classroom, which can create barriers when seeking academic support. We aim to address the many concerns raised by students, particularly amidst the many cases of sexual misconduct and harassment by

instructors that have occurred in the past year, such as (Robert R. Reisz).

The UTMSU is aiming to implement a module on consent training for all faculty and staff at UTM and create a public report documenting previous cases. 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 questions related to the Consent is Mandatory Campaign, please contact the VP Equity, Ruth Alemayehu, at 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.

UTM students contribute \$2.20 per semester to the WUSC levy, which contributes to the local Student Refugee Program (SRP) at UTM, WUSC's primary refugee resettlement program.

Every year, WUSC and the UTMSU help to resettle one student to UTM. Since 2008, the UTMSU has helped to successfully resettle over thirteen 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 Orientation and Welcome Back Week Tabling as well as a Welcome Dinner with other Local Committees in the GTA, such as New College from UTSG. Furthermore, in addition to having two Open Committee Meetings (one in the summer and one in the fall semester), we hosted a Nature Walk Fundraiser to support other WUSC events.

For questions related to the WUSC Program or Committee please contact the WUSC Coordinator, Somto Nnakenyi, at wusc@utmsu.ca.



ACCESS TO STUDENT HOUSING

Students deserve access to housing! The UTMSU created a Housing Committee to expand the Access to Housing Campaign and address student concerns regarding 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.

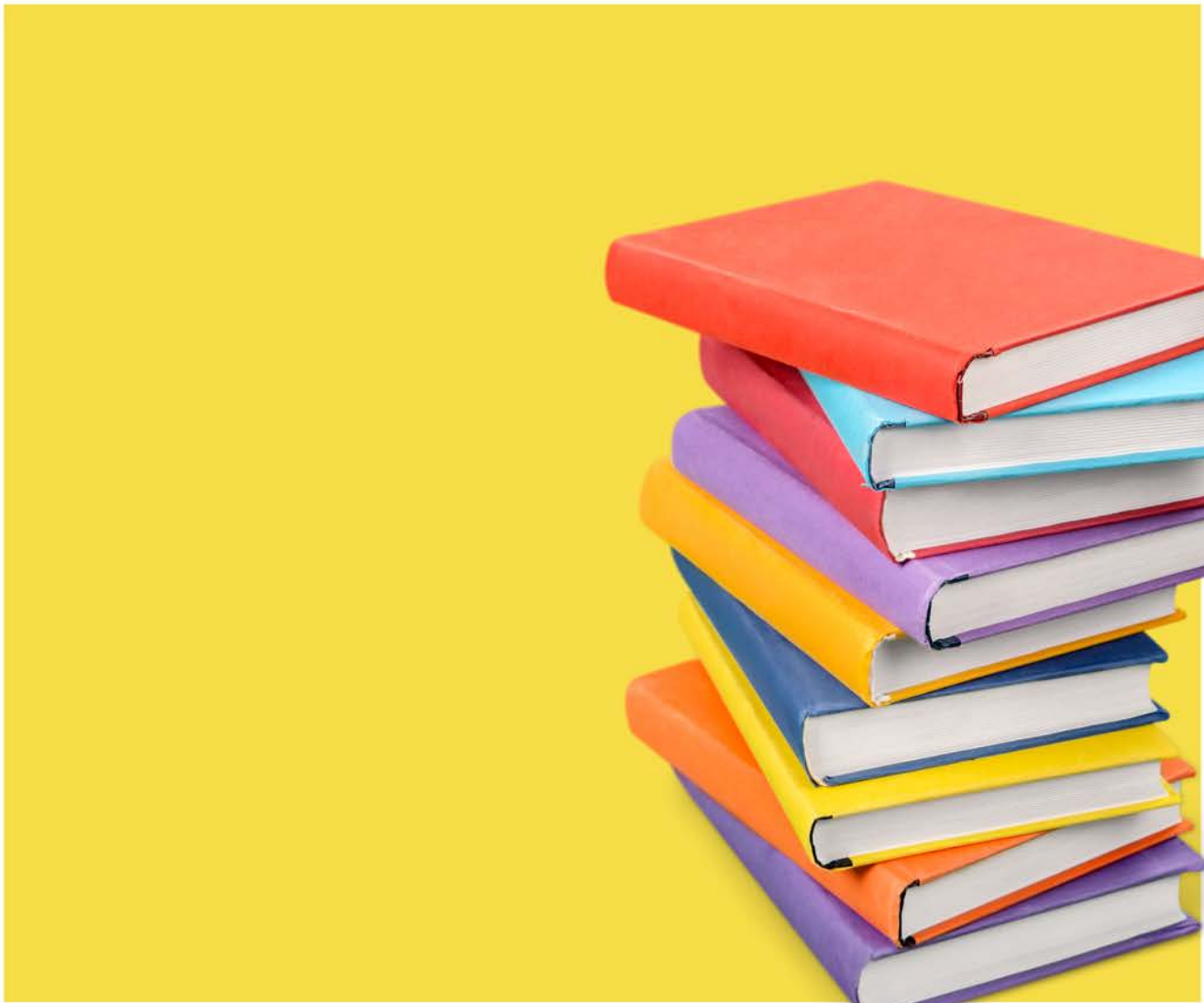
The UTMSU Housing committee has undertaken three key initiatives: crafting an all-encompassing housing guide, advocating for the creation of a student co-op residence either on campus or in close proximity, and organizing a diverse array of housing-related events and workshops to benefit students throughout the year.

One of the main issues amongst students' surrounding housing involve the uncertainty about how to find suitable housing off-campus for the school year, identifying rental scams, differentiating legitimate versus illegitimate rental postings, and understanding their rights as tenants, amongst others.

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, designed to produce housing data that will help the UTMSU make well-informed decisions.

For questions related to Accessible Housing please contact our Vice President External, Kiki Ayoola, vpexternal@utmsu.ca.



ACADEMIC ADVOCACY

Academic Advocacy aims to ensure that all students have proper accommodations when they need it. Over the past year, UTMSU has continued to lobby UTM administration to extend the credit/no-credit (CR/NCR) deadline to the day when students receive their final grades. Extending the deadline will allow students to make an informed decision when deciding to CR/NCR a course.

From summer 2023 to October 2023, the UTMSU has worked closely with the Experiential Education Unit (EEU) on the development of the Co-op Internship Program. Once the survey was created, it was promoted to Humanities and Social Sciences students in particular, to gauge interest in a Co-op Internship Program in their respective area of study.

For questions related to Academic Advocacy please contact our Vice President University Affairs, Layana Alnabhan, vpua@utrmsu.ca

EVENTS



FROST WEEK

Frost Week consisted of a week full of events, based on the theme "Winter Wonderland," to welcome students back after the winter holidays. The events were organized in partnership with Mental Health Awareness Week.

The first event was a Mental Health Conversation Table, followed by the Frost Fest and a Drive-in Movie Night. Following that, the UTMSU hosted a Sip N' Paint event and a Skating Trip at Celebration Square. We ended the week with a Yoga and Chill, and a Frost Week Game Cafe.



LOBBY WEEK

For the very first time, the UTMSU hosted a Lobby Week to bridge the gap between students and UTM administration. The UTMSU presented documents regarding pressing topics that were decided upon during the 2022 Annual General Meeting, including Food Insecurity, Academic Advocacy, and Education for All.

The UTMSU lobbied UTM admin to extend the CR/NCR deadline and to amend the Academic Code of Behaviour. For Ed4All, the demands were to reduce and ultimately eliminate tuition fees, and implement band-aid solutions such as non-academic grants. Finally, the UTMSU demanded that there be cheaper and more culturally diverse food options on campus as well as longer hours of operation to combat food insecurity.

The UTMSU successfully received a commitment from the Office of the Dean to start a tri-campus conversation on amending the Academic Code of Behavior, and The Office of the Principal committed to implementing more non-academic scholarships for students.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Last year's Black History Month was a success with the help of volunteers and clubs such as Caribbean Connections, Black Literature and Arts Club, Somali Students' Association, Black Students' Association, and African Students' Association. UTMSU hosted a month-long series of events, all of which covered pressing issues that Black students and the Black community deal with on a daily basis.

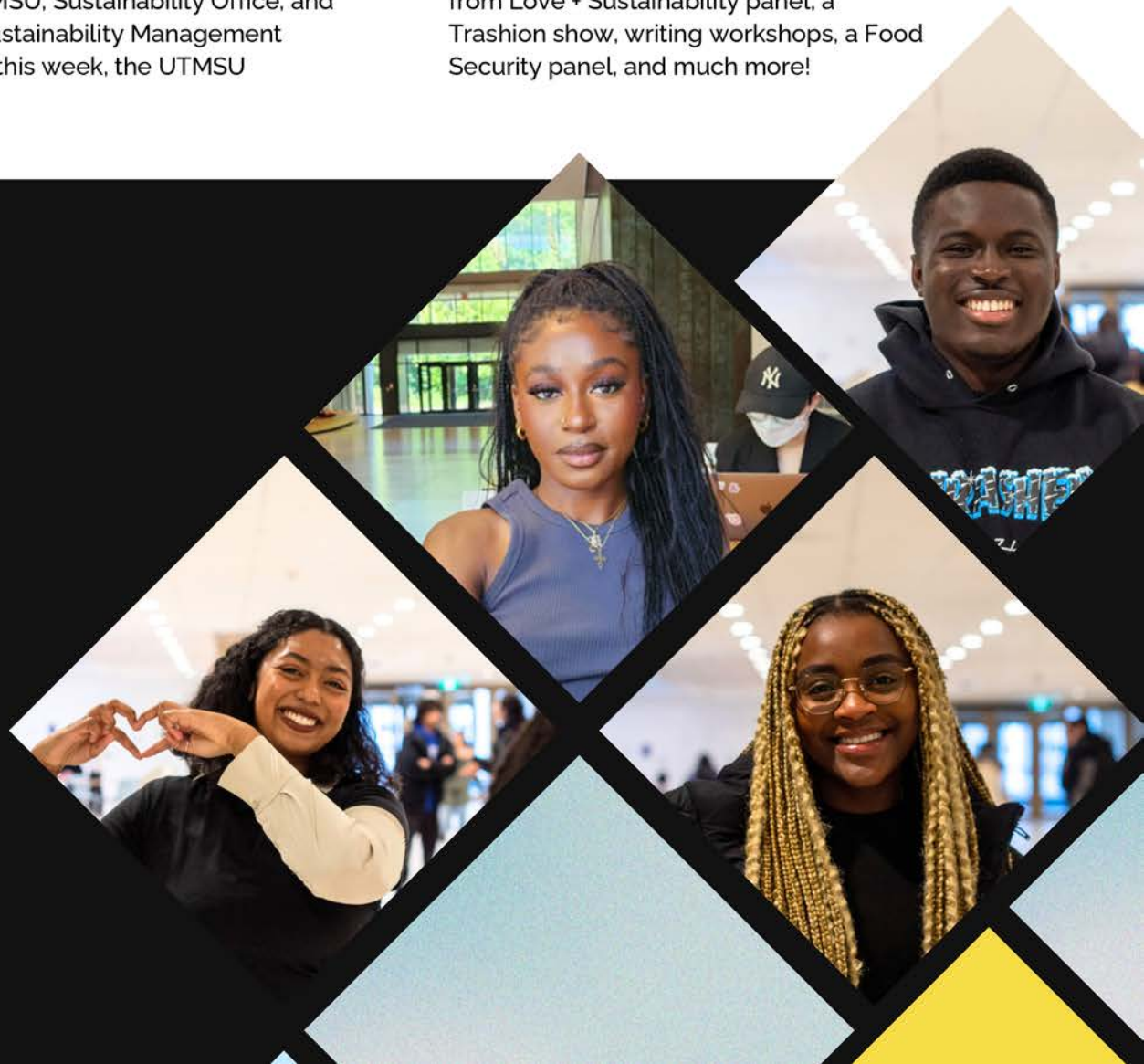
Black History month was kicked off with a "Buy Black" event where Black owned businesses (including those owned by UTM students) set up in the Student Centre and sold their items.

Following "Buy Black," students were able to attend other events such as "12 Jurors" in which they touched upon the topic of racism in the criminal justice system through the example of a real case. "Open Mic Night" was the next event, where students could enjoy Black performers. For Valentine's Day, the BHM Committee held "Love, Sex, and Relationships," in which students had conversations surrounding sex, relationships, love, and consent in the Black community. The month was wrapped up with "Nuit Noire," a culture night for Black identifying students to enjoy food, watch a fashion show, and play cultural games.

SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

Sustainability week was held as a collaboration between the UTMSU, Sustainability Office, and the Masters of Sustainability Management Program. During this week, the UTMSU

organized a wide variety events ranging from Love + Sustainability panel, a Trashion show, writing workshops, a Food Security panel, and much more!





BLOCK PARTY

Block Party is an annual week of events that is hosted at the end of the academic year. During the 2022 Block Party, the UTMSU held the Undergraduate Research Symposium, and Movie Night on the first day.

On the second day, we had Union Square Market, featuring various local businesses; as well as Colourful Block Party (a painting event for students to de-stress)! On the third day, we had our Campus Crawl, where clubs tabled and held various activities at their booth, and had Arcade games for students to enjoy.

We did our merch drop, where students entered a raffle to win our exclusive 2022-2023 black hoodies, and then students did some parkour at Pursuit OCR. Finally, we wrapped up Block Party with a Consent Forum (where students had an open discussion on consent), and a Late Night Dinner: Iftar Edition, so students can break their fast with a free meal surrounded by loved ones.

PRIDE AND INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

June is both Pride Month and Indigenous History Month, which is why the UTMSU organized numerous events to celebrate the LGBTQ2S+ community and show solidarity with the Indigenous community.

The first event was the annual Flag Drop Ceremony with partners on campus! The week following the ceremony, we hosted a beading ceremony in collaboration with the Indigenous Center at UTM, a Make-Up Workshop with drag queen Vita Love, a Queer Social for queer students to enjoy various activities and games, and a Pop-Up Shop for students to support Queer and Indigenous-owned businesses.

EXAM DESTRESSORS

The UTMSU hosted exam destressors during the Fall, Winter, and Summer exam periods. During Winter 2022, the exam destressors included a dog therapy session, Gingerbread House Making Competition, and a Movie Time: Holiday Edition. In addition, the UTMSU organized a decompression space available to students throughout the week before exam season in December. For the spring destressors, the UTMSU brought back dog therapy due to popular demand, followed by late night dinners and a "Paint Your Tote!" event, where students were

provided with the necessary supplies to paint their tote bags.

The UTMSU organised two exam de-stressors during Summer 2023, including an event in collaboration with the VP Equity and VP Campus Life, where students got to plant and name their plants on the vertical wall at the Student Centre and watch them grow over the year. In addition, we had a Laser Tag event for students to de-stress before the final exam season of summer.

LEGENDS '23: ORIENTATION WEEK

Orientation Week is a huge celebration that runs from Sept. 3rd to Sept. 7th, 2023. This is a week full of fun and exciting events for incoming first year students, which provides them with the opportunity to learn about the campus, various resources they can access, and create life-long friendships in the process.

This year, the theme for Orientation was Legends'23! In the mythological worlds, each creature possesses its own set of morals and undergoes a journey as a hero in its own realm, and just like these creatures, first-year students are destined to become modern-day heroes.

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, a dragon guarding its treasures, and a kraken braving uncharted waters, students will rise above challenges while exploring the unknown. United as one, the class of 2027 will transform and drive positive changes on a global scale with their actions resonating far beyond their time at UTM!

We started off the first day with registrations and a mini-carnival for students to pick up their Orientation kits while enjoying fun carnival games! On the second day, we had our Welcome Ceremony for students to learn more about the UTMSU and our services; the Realms of Wonder Scavenger Hunt for students to familiarise themselves with navigating the campus; our iconic Mentalist Show with Yan Markson; and our Sunset Fest, featuring various performances (like drag queen Vita Love) and a chance for students to meet their clubs! On the third day, we had an orientation for international students, academic workshops, a fair with the Centre for Student Engagement, our historic Battle for the House Cup, and our iconic Glow and Foam Party! On our fourth day, we had our Tri-Campus Parade and Clubs Fair, which gathers students across all three campuses to show our campus spirit while parading through the streets of Downtown Toronto! Finally, the last day included our Twilight Pub Night, a great way to end off this legendary Orientation Week!







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 share glimpses of university life and introductions to 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 introduced students to the UTMSU, but also provided students with entertaining ice breaking activities, food, lotteries, and Kahoot games to give students an interactive understanding of UTM facilities and UTMSU services.

WELCOME BACK WEEK

Welcome Back Week kickstarts the year off with fun and engaging events to welcome all students back for the new academic year! We had various campus groups table for 4 days outside the Student Centre and within CCT, to ensure students get a chance to meet their campus groups!

We held an Iced Coffee Giveaway in collaboration with the UTMSU Food Centre, our first Free Breakfast Wednesday of the year, and a Farmer's Market in collaboration with Regenesis UTM, featuring various sustainable vendors outside of the Student Centre.

We also had the Moonlight Boat Cruise (typically an Orientation Exclusive event),

which was open to all students this year! Students had the chance to embark on an exciting journey and enjoy the breathtaking views of the Toronto skyline while dancing and creating unforgettable memories with their friends!

We also had our biggest event of the year, our East Meets West Concert in collaboration with Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU)! This concert had two openers (DJ Databass and FRVRFRIDAY) and our headliner was NAV. It was an amazing night full of excitement, and a great way to wrap up September!

QUEER ORIENTATION

This year, the UTMSU collaborated with the EDIO, Blackwood Gallery, and the QTSA for Queer Orientation taking place at Spigel Hall, in the Davis Building. This event was to celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ students, staff, faculty, and librarians at UTM, welcoming all allies as well.

There were a variety of activities such as board games, origami, bracelet making, painting, and collaging. This event included a tour of the Blackwood Gallery sites and showed students the upcoming exhibition on gender sexuality.

There were also tables set up with resources and information for students. This event was a social event to connect students with staff and allies to build a better sense of community among Queer students.

FALL READING WEEK

During Fall Reading Week, we held a Paint the Season event, where students unleashed their inner artists and got creative with their canvases!

Afterwards, we held a Reading Week Dinner, where students could enjoy a delicious free dinner to warm up and celebrate the Fall season!



HALLO-WEEK

Our annual Hallo-week came back stronger than ever, starting off with a trip to Halloween Haunt at Canada's Wonderland! We had Spooky Free Breakfast Wednesday, Fright (Movie) Night in collaboration with the UTM Film Club, our annual Haunted House (where we take over the Student Centre and transform it into a bone-chilling experience), and Hallo-Fest (which included a clubs carnival and various activities like mask painting) in collaboration with ICCIT Council and DVSSS.

We also had our Halloween Pub Night, in collaboration with the Charity Fashion Show and DEM Association! It was a sell-out event with over 300 attendees! It featured performances from drag queen Vita Love. Students wore their Halloween costumes to participate in our Costume Contest, where we had both group and individual prizes!



BOLLYWOOD PUB NIGHT

We held our Bollywood Pub Night in November as a prelude for Diwali, bringing the South Asian community together. We collaborated and featured phenomenal performances from the Erindale Punjabi Association, South Asian Student Association, Indian Students' Association, and the Gujarati Students' Association.

Students were encouraged to wear their traditional attire. We had two DJs to bring about intercultural celebration and had delicious appetisers (samosas and spring rolls). Over 300 students participated, creating some unforgettable memories and a vibrant night to remember!





ACADEMIC ADVOCACY WEEK

The UTMSU hosted the annual Academic Advocacy Week, with the addition of Professional Week, to inform students about life beyond university. We hosted Academic Advocacy + Professional Week from November 13-16 of 2023 in collaboration with the Career Centre, Academic Integrity Unit(AIU), and a speaker from the UTM Library.

The week offered a series of events to help students network and prepare their resources and skills as they approach the end of their university journey and enter the job-market/graduate school. Moreover, the week offered an event dedicated to helping students to better understand

academic integrity through informative sessions on the use of AI, an interactive Kahoot session about academic integrity, and appropriate use of citation methods presented by Nathan Wolfe, a speaker from the UTM Library.

AA + PW also hosted events such as "Creating Strong LinkedIn Profile," "LinkedIn Photoshoot Day with Free Breakfast Wednesday," and "Let's Talk about Corporate Retail" in collaboration with the Career Centre. The Retail event allows students to network and meet with different employers from companies/organizations, such as Cheil Worldwide, Samsung Electronics Canada, IKEA, and the Career Centre itself.

WINTER FEST

Winter Fest is a week dedicated to bringing some holiday spirit and spreading joy across campus before exam period! We have a heartwarming clothing drive in collaboration with the UTMSU Food Centre and Regenesi UTM happening this entire week where students can drop off their new or gently used clothing items (which will then be donated back to the community)!

We had a Hot Cocoa Bar with the UTMSU Food Centre for students to indulge in the warmth of the season; Free Breakfast Wednesday; Tinsel and Treats Carnival

where students could meet their clubs and take part in fun activities at their booths; and our Holiday Market Place (happening tomorrow in the Student Centre!) for students to discover the perfect affordable gifts that sparkle with holiday magic. Our Holiday Market is in collaboration with The Little Market, with over 25 vendors, free hot chocolate and treats, and a raffle draw for a grand prize! We have plenty of other destressors and events upcoming for Winter Fest, with more details to come.



SERVICES

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.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Blind Duck please email our Vice President Internal, John (Yongxin) Liang at vpinternal@utmsu.ca, or our General Manager, Retail Operations at shane@utmsu.ca.

THE DUCK STOP

The Duck Stop Convenience Store has been a supplies staple for students since 2015. 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.

If you have questions or suggestions regarding the Duck Stop please email our Vice President Internal, John (Yongxin) Liang at vpinternal@utmsu.ca.





THE BLIND DUCK STATISTICS



**7000 PEOPLE SERVED
PER MONTH**



POPULAR ITEMS

Buffalo Chicken Fries
Chicken Fingers
Chicken Shawarma Poutine



**BEST SELLER!
OVER 10,000 WINGS
SOLD PER MONTH!**

THE DUCK STOP STATISTICS



**3000 TRANSACTIONS
PER MONTH**



**SALES AVERAGE AT
\$3.99 PER CUSTOMER**

FUN FACT!

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE
DUCK STOP OFFERS THE
MOST AFFORDABLE PRICES
ON CAMPUS!**

**POPULAR PURCHASES
INCLUDE SNACKS, DRINKS,
AND CONFECTIONARY
ITEMS.**

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, John (Yongxin) Liang at vpinternal@utmsu.ca.

HEADSHOT SERVICE

As part of the Job Readiness Support Program, the UTMSU is providing students with the Headshot Service!

The Headshot Service helps students with their professional development, such as on LinkedIn, which will be able to help students utilize the resource and stand out with their profile when connecting and networking with various people on the platform.

This service captures the headshot/portrait of students, where they will be able to use the pictures on whatever platform they desire, which will help in enhancing their e-profiles on different social media platforms.



HOW MANY UPASSES WERE DISTRIBUTED FOR F 2022 & W 2023 AND SUMMER 2023?

Fall/Winter = 11857

Summer = 3235

Total = 15000+



HOW MANY TAXES WERE FILED AT LAST YEAR'S TAX CLINIC 2023?

Approximately 226 people were assisted in-person!

We were open Monday - Thursday, 11AM - 5PM for 4 weeks.



WHAT ARE THE HIGHEST NUMBERS OF SOLD ITEMS AT THE INFOBOOTH BETWEEN SEPT 2022 - AUG 2023?

Cineplex = 148

Classic bowl = 109

Shuttle = 1767



HOW MANY LOCKERS RENTED FALL 2022 & WINTER 2023?

254 lockers!



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.

If you have questions regarding the health and dental plans please email health@utmsu.ca or visit the infoBooth Desk in the UTM Student Centre building.

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 15,000 students were distributed a digital U-Pass this year through the newly introduced PRESTO E-Tickets app. Besides improving access to transit, this program is also a step towards reducing our carbon footprint.

If you have questions regarding the Digital U-Pass Program, please email our Vice President Internal, John (Yongxin) Liang at vpinternal@utmsu.ca or the U-Pass Program coordinator at upass@utmsu.ca.

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 25 volunteers to help administer this service in 2023.

This service is available to every student, whether they are domestic or international. A total of 226 returns were filed through our 2023 clinic, almost close to our pre-pandemic numbers. Our upcoming tax clinic will run between March-April, 2024.

Students are encouraged to contact taxclinic@utmsu.ca with any questions about our upcoming 2024 clinic.

DISCOUNTS

The UTMSU provides a variety of discount codes and coupons to students so they can save money. Current discounts include: Discounted Cineplex tickets, Discounted Classic Bowling tickets, Wonderland 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/

If you have any questions regarding the discounts, please email our Vice President Internal, John (Yongxin) Liang at vpinternal@utmsu.ca.

BURSARIES

The UTMSU is committed to advocating for a free and accessible education and firmly believes in supporting students who are in need of financial assistance.

As such, the UTMSU offers bursaries to all UTM students during the Summer, Fall, and Winter semesters. Applications are assessed through a combination of bank statements, financial information, housing situations, and personal statements, and funding is allocated on a case by case basis.

In the summer of 2023, the UTMSU successfully launched the transit bursary to support students who are commuting long distances for summer courses. During the Fall semester, the Equity Team processed and submitted over 150 student applications to the Bursary Committee.

If you have questions regarding the Bursaries Program please email our Vice President Equity, Ruth Alemayehu at vpequity@utmsu.ca.



FOOD CENTRE

The Food Centre is a space on campus for students to access healthy food, hygiene products, and other necessities, while joining a wider community of enthusiastic staff and volunteers to address food insecurity. Over the last year, the Food Centre has furthered its partnership with the Mississauga Food Bank to provide a wider range of vegan and gluten-free products, as well as increase the current capacity of the Centre to support more students.

To access the Food Centre's free groceries program, 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 also hosted several giveaways, including a Smoothie giveaway in May, Pink lemonade & treats in July, an Ice Coffee event in September, and a Hot Chocolate bar in November.

If you would like to volunteer, have ideas for the Food Centre that you would like to see implemented, or are in need of food, please contact our Food Coordinator at food@utmsu.ca.

JOB READINESS SUPPORT PROGRAM

The preceding academic year saw the continuation of the Job Readiness Support Program. Its objective is to aid students in preparing for life beyond university, particularly the workforce. Students in the program can network, gain knowledge, and take part in a variety of programs 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. In support of the program, several events that were part of the Academic Advocacy + Professional Week were hosted to help students further improve their skills and resources when applying for jobs.

MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

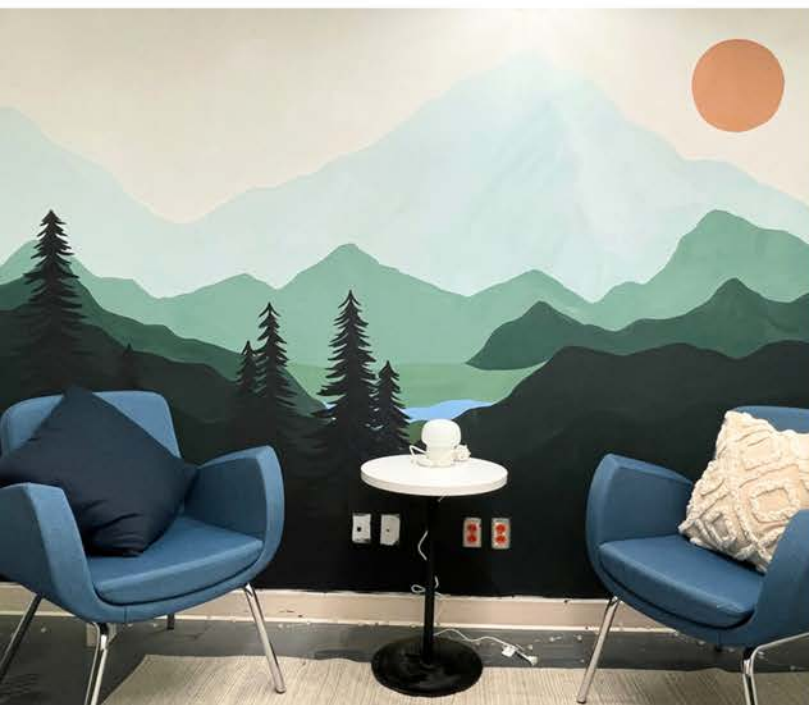
This year the UTMSU Peer Support Program is fully in person, with the opening of a brand new and freshly painted Peer Support Centre within the Student Centre!

This program was developed with the understanding that there is a lack of mental health resources available to students at UTM, and to recognize 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 individually tailored to support students with their specific needs.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, our team of 25 passionate volunteers have received extensive training from Stella's Place to ensure that they are equipped to support students and navigate various conversations relating to mental health. Training includes general equity and anti-oppression training, youth peer support training, and 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 available throughout the week and will be scheduled based on the participant and volunteer's availability. 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 questions related to the Mental Health Peer Support Program please contact our President, Gulfy Bekbolatova, at president@utmsu.ca, or Peer Support Coordinator, Sanaa Suhail at peer@utmsu.ca.



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. Students can drop by the InfoBooth in the Student Centre, between 10am and 6pm on weekdays.

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).

If you have any questions or inquiries about the Gym Equipment Rental Program, please contact our President, Gulfy Bekbolatova at president@utmsu.ca.



UTMSU RENTAL PROGRAMS

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 rent a laptop for up to an entire semester, with no charge.

For any questions or inquiries related to the Laptop Rental Program, email our President, Gulfy Bekbolatova at president@utmsu.ca.



TEXTBOOK EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The UTMSU has expanded the Textbook Exchange Program in an effort to financially support students on campus. 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 between 10am and 6pm on weekdays. 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.

For any questions or inquiries related to the Textbook Exchange Program, email our President, Gulfy Bekbolatova at president@utmsu.ca.

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 108 clubs and 17 academic societies were (re)recognized.

The (re)recognition period also allowed for members with outstanding and new initiatives to send in proposals for new UTMSU clubs. In order to be considered for recognition, students must submit a constitution,

Upon successful completion of the recognition package, new clubs were recognized by the UTMSU Clubs Committee, resulting in a growth in the campus group family!

FUNDING

Every UTMSU affiliated campus group receives yearly base funding to support their initiatives for 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. UTMSU club funding is based on multiple factors, including, but not limited to, membership size, awards won, amount of time the club has been active, etc. The UTMSU provides funding for campus groups to assist with hosting events, giving prizes, and covering other overhead fees.

AUDITS

The UTMSU conducts biannual audits for campus groups; once at the end of the fall semester and once at the end of the winter semester. Audits ensure that campus groups are using their funds appropriately and that there is no financial mismanagement. The submission and passing of the audit allows for groups to receive future funding.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, campus groups will be submitting a Fall Audit (which will go over all financial activity from the fall semester) in December. The Winter audit is submitted in the summer months, along with the recognition package.



CAMPUS GROUPS TRAININGS

The UTMSU hosts several trainings and workshops for campus group executives throughout the academic year. There are both mandatory and optional trainings. Mandatory trainings include recognition, audit, and election. In these spaces, campus groups are informed on how they can carry out all of their required documents

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 also offers trainings upon request. 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

There are three additional pools of funds allocated for campus groups 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.

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, emergency funding and green grants requests. The committee has met 8 times throughout this academic year, mainly to recognize clubs and approve collaborative funding requests

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, approve audits and supervise elections.

Throughout the last few months the committee has met to review recognition packages and funding. The committee successfully passed our society's recognition packages and allocated funding for each.

In addition, the academic societies got the opportunity to apply to the Academic Society Initiative Prizes, where they will be able to receive fund awards.

ROOM AND TABLE BOOKINGS, AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR CAMPUS GROUPS

UTMSU recognized groups are able to book spaces in the Student Centre to host meetings, 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 26 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.

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.

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 University Affairs sits on this committee and assesses supporting documents that come with the appeal and then votes on each student's petition.

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.

CFS - ONTARIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS (OEC)

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.

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.



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, Education for All, international students and their experiences, the education for All campaign and the launch of the Peer Support Program and more.

The UTMSU President was also interviewed by the Varsity about student organizing on campus and the student body's response to the University's and government's attempt at censorship.

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 monthly multilingual tweet-style 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.

These UTMSU statements may be found on the UTMSU website: utmsu.ca/about-us/publications/.

We also released two statements pertaining to the occupation in Palestine and censorship of student voices, which can be found on <https://utmsu.ca/statements/>.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The UTMSU's social media saw increases across all platforms. The UTMSU WeChat account had the most significant increase of 45% in total followers bringing the current total to 1118. Whereas the UTMSU Instagram page saw an almost 30% increase in total followers.

The Instagram page has over 10.1k followers with post engagement increasing as well. Additionally, the Facebook page saw a 4% increase in total page followers bringing the total amount to 8,047.

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

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.

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.



**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 with the Migrant
Workers Alliance for Change

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.

SOLIDARITY

ANNUAL REPORT

winter
2023



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA
STUDENTS' UNION
2023