

Semi-Annual General Meeting

November 27, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

McCain 105 & MS Teams



1 Land Recognition

The MSVUSU acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of Mi'kmaq people.

2 Attendance Roll Call

3 Call to Order

4 Approval of the Agenda

11/27/2025:SAGM01 Motion

Be it resolved that the agenda be adopted as distributed/amended.

5 Approval of Minutes

Supporting Document: Draft Minutes (attached)

11/27/2025:SAGM02 Motion

Be it resolved that the minutes for the Annual General Meeting 2025 be adopted as distributed/amended.

6 Executive Report Presentation

Supporting Document: Reports from President, Vice President Communications, Vice President Advocacy and Undergraduate Student Affairs, Vice President Research and Graduate Student Affairs, Vice President Student Life, Residence Representative, Accessibility Representative, 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Board of Governors Representative, Gender Advocacy Representative, Hub Manager, Foodbank Manager, Soup Kitchen Manager, Society Affairs Committee (attached)

7 Financial Report (Chief Financial Officer)

8 Adjournment

11/27/2025:SAGM0_ Motion

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned at ____ pm.

Annual General Meeting

April 2, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

SU Boardroom & MS Teams



1 Land Recognition

The MSVUSU acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of Mi'kmaq people.

2 Attendance Roll Call

Attendees: Carson Cameron, President; Koen Schlieff, Professional Studies Representative; Simranpreet Kaur, Vice President Research and Graduate Affairs; Meghna Minocha, Vice President Advocacy and Undergraduate Student Affairs; Jackson MacIntyre, Residence Representative; Juliana Fanning, Gender Advocacy Representative; Grace MacInnis, Vice President Student Life; Diana Hazelton, Science Representative; Armaan Kush, First Year Representative; Anu Damodaran, Mature Students' Representative; Jessie Taylor, Vice President Communications; Marie-Dominique, BIPOC Representative; Nola Sam, Chief Financial Officer; Patti Gentile, Health Plan & Payroll Administrator & Facilities Coordinator; Carolyn Lewis, Strategic Operations Manager; Peter Cromwell, Hub Manager; Sara Zegarra, Pride Centre Manager; Jacque Deslauriers, Soup Kitchen Manager; Jenna Ryall, Rook Assistant Manager; Mika Paul, Student at large; Orinari Francis Wokoma, Student at large; Nguyen Mai Thao Le, Student at large; Nguyen Mai Thanh Le, Student at large; Jessica Ryuzaki, Student at large; Grace Stuart, Student at large; Kazi Arafin Zaman, Student at large

Regrets: Batoul Nour, International Student Representative

3 Call to Order

At 6:03 pm.

4 Approval of the Agenda

04/02/2025:AGM01 Motion

Be it resolved that the meeting agenda be adopted as distributed.

Residence Representative/Vice President Student Life

Carried Unanimously

5 Approval of Minutes

04/02/2025:AGM02 Motion

Be it resolved that the minutes for the Semi-Annual General Meeting 2024 be adopted as distributed.

Vice President Communications/Residence Representative

Carried Unanimously

6 Executive Report Presentation

Reports were presented by President, Vice President Advocacy & Undergraduate Student Affairs, Vice President Student Life, Vice President Communications, and Vice President Research & Graduate Student Affairs.

7 Adjournment

04/02/2025:AGM03 Motion

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Semi-Annual General Meeting Reports

November 27, 2025

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President – Sara Zegarra

(Reporting Period: May 1st – November 6th, 2025)

Summary of the Role

As President of the MSVUSU, I serve as the Chief Executive Officer and primary spokesperson for the Students' Union, overseeing the day-to-day operations, governance, and strategic direction of the organization. My role represents the student body at the MSVU Board of Governors, Senate, and with external organizations such as the Canadian Federation of Students.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead the development and implementation of the union's strategic plan, ongoing projects, and student engagement initiatives.
- Build and maintain effective relationships with university stakeholders, including administration, faculty, staff, and students, fostering collaboration and ensuring student voices are represented in decision-making processes.
- Chair key committees as Executive Committee, Human Resources Committee, and Constitution and Policy Planning Committee, overseeing governance, staffing, and policy implementation.
- Serve on critical university governance bodies, such as Senate, Senate Executive Committee, Board of Governors, and various advisory and operational committees, ensuring student perspectives are integrated into academic, financial, and operational decisions.
- Manage and supervise the union's executive team and staff, providing guidance, performance oversight, and fostering a positive and inclusive workplace culture.
- Act as the union's official representative in lobbying, advocacy campaigns, media relations, and partnerships with external organizations, promoting equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice for students.
- Ensure compliance with union policies, by-laws, contracts, and legal obligations, including financial oversight as a signing authority.
- Facilitate the onboarding and training of successors to ensure continuity of leadership and organizational knowledge.

Internal Committees

- Budget Committee
- Constitutional & Policy Planning Committee
- Crisis Communications Committee
- Executive Committee
- Human Resource Committee
- Student Executive Committee

External Committees and Caucuses

- Advisory Committee on IT&S
- Large Orientation Committee
- Senate Executive
- Senate Student Caucus
- Student Experience Committee
- Board of Governors

ACTIVITIES

Executive Leadership of MSVU

In the first meeting, we explored opportunities for collaboration between MSVUSU and University leadership to enhance the overall student experience. The discussion focused on identifying initiatives and projects where student input can directly contribute to achieving university goals. We also addressed the potential for establishing a structured mentorship program between Executive Leadership and MSVUSU executives to support professional growth, leadership development, and informed strategic decision-making.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

We reviewed and discussed the current MOU between MSVUSU and MSVU, considering potential updates, clarifications, and renegotiation points to ensure it aligns with current student needs and union operations. University leadership is currently reviewing the changes we proposed to the latest version.

Hiring Processes

I participated in the hiring processes for the Rook Server & Security Positions as well as Elections Coordinator position. These positions were critical to supporting student services and governance.

Orientation Planning

We worked closely with the university to prepare Orientation for new students. I was present in the International Orientation, General Orientation and Indigenous Orientation. These efforts ensured a welcoming, inclusive, and informative start to the academic year.

SU Representatives Meetings

I held one-on-one meetings with the majority of the Student Representatives. These meetings provided an opportunity to clarify their roles, discuss their ideas and projects, and strengthen communication and collaboration within the Students' Union.

Students Meetings

I held several one-on-one meetings with students who reached out for support, offering guidance on academic concerns, personal matters, and navigating university resources.

CFS

I participated in several meetings with both the Provincial and National CFS representatives. I attended the Provincial General Meeting held at MSVU, where we discussed challenges faced by universities across the province and explored potential initiatives to address them.

In early November, I represented MSVUSU at the National General Meeting in Toronto. I served on the Campaigns Committee and contributed to the discussion of the first five motions. As a collective, we successfully defeated the fifth motion, as it raised more concerns than solutions and required further clarity before approval.

MSVUSU Storm-Kit Event

We partnered with the Ecology Action Centre to host a successful Storm-Kit Event inside The Rook. During the event, students received prepared kits containing non-perishable food items, essential safety information, and a flashlight. This initiative supported student safety and emergency readiness while strengthening our collaboration with community partners.

Food Bank Support

I am supporting the Food Bank by creating Instagram post templates and “thank you for donating” cards. I also initiated the development of a volunteer sign-up form to help coordinate donation pick-ups and encourage students to contribute with their time and car (Project in Progress).

During the Strike

We have been working closely with the Executive Team and the SRC to advocate for the interests of our student body. Our priority has been to keep students well informed about ongoing developments. With CUPE still on strike, we are exploring additional ways to support students during this challenging time.

University Engagement

- **Accessibility Services:** Collaborated with representatives from Accessibility Services to learn how to organize and implement Accessibility-focused events that promote inclusion and awareness across campus.
- **International Education Centre (IEC):** Exploring opportunities to strengthen collaboration and enhance advocacy efforts for international students.
- **Career Services:** The Co-Curricular Record (CCR) initiative will now be coordinated by the SOM, ensuring continued student recognition for their experiential learning.
- **Connecting Through Food:** Chartwells has generously donated \$1,684.69 in food to the MSVUSU Food Bank, reflecting a strong partnership in addressing food insecurity and supporting the student community.

- **Alumni:** MSVU President introduced us to Chidinma, who will serve as a mentor on Food Insecurity initiatives, providing valuable guidance and expertise to strengthen our programs.
- **Register Office:** I submitted a request to add additional members to the Academic Appeals Committee: one new member and one alternate, to ensure proper representation and support for the committee's work.
- **TLC:** We held an initial meeting focused on strategies for securing funding. The discussion covered where to search for available funding opportunities and key considerations to keep in mind when preparing applications.

PROJECTS

Standards of Excellence Project

The implementation of the Standards of Excellence project is ongoing, supported by two grants from Food Banks Canada. Devora Goldberg was initially hired to complete the first phase of the project and now is leading the second phase as our proposal was successfully accepted by Food Banks Canada and we were able to receive a grant of \$15,600.

MSVU Students' Union Housing Bursary

The MSVUSU Housing Bursary is now established as an ongoing program for 2025-26 and beyond, following the one-time pilot last year. An endowment fund was established with the university's support and Dr. Dickinson's leadership. The program will award \$7000 this year. We have created a special committee chaired by our Governance Secretary to oversee the administration of the bursary. This year, the committee has participation from Stephanie Hale - MSVU Registrar; Erin Tomlinson - Manager of Centre for Academic Advising & Student Success; Dr. Emily Ballantyne - Acting Director, Teaching and Learning; Dr. Mary Jane Harkins; Breanne Phee - BIPOC Representative; including myself.

Buddy Program

The Buddy Program has officially launched with ten new students, each paired with a buddy who is supporting them as they navigate various aspects of university life. Additional details about the program are attached for reference.

MSVU Students' Union Naloxone Program

SOM and I completed an initial Naloxone training session led by The Rook Manager, who oversees the program. The next step is for me to coordinate and organize a general Naloxone training session for all members of the Students' Union.

MSVUSU Semester Report

I have asked my team to compile all the work we have completed this semester to present a comprehensive report. This document will highlight the projects, initiatives, and activities we have undertaken to support our students and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to

strengthening the student experience and our collaboration with the university. The Full Summer Report is attached. The summer report was presented at both **Senate** and **BOG**. We are now working on refining the look and feel of the report to ensure it is clear, accessible, and visually engaging. The next report will be the **Fall Semester Report**, covering the period from September 1 to December.

Participation in Cross-Functional Projects

- **SU Cookbook:** Contributed to the initial planning and development stages of the project.
- **Tech Assistance Program:** Secured 8 laptops from Digital NS and 1 tablet from an Alumni donor; continuing to seek additional donations to expand student access.
- **BIPOC & First-Year Initiative:** Upcoming project in collaboration with campus partners.
- **Accessibility Initiative:** Upcoming project focused on enhancing accessibility and inclusion.
- **Soup Kitchen Collaboration:** Upcoming project focused on Indigenous students.

Every project, idea, and activity we have carried out since May has been the result of our team's collective effort. The dedication each member brings to their work makes our Students' Union a welcoming, committed, and hardworking space that truly advocates for students.



MSVU Students' Union
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msvusu.ca

VP Communications – Diana Hazelton

(Reporting Period: May 1st, 2025 – November 16th, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Role: VP Communications is responsible for general communication within the SU and MSVU community, including students, administration, and faculty. The role is responsible for duties such as the website, weekly newsletter, society ratification, promotion for events & opportunities and oversees the Social Media and Content Coordinator position. The VP Communications position oversees many supportive or administrative tasks, and fluctuates depending on the needs of other executives or team members.

Internal Committees: Budget Committee, Pay & Honoraria Committee, Elections Committee, Student Executive Committee, Executive Committee, Human Resources Committee (did not convene), Health Insurance Plan committee (did not convene), Crisis Communications Committee (did not convene),

Senate Committees: Committee on Academic Policy & Planning (CAPP) – voting member, and Orientation Large Committee.

Society Ratification: Since May 1st, we have had over 20 societies ratify for the 2025-26 year. We've seen great engagement of societies and are prioritizing working relationships with them. Moving forward, I would love to work in collaboration with them more on events or opportunities.

Newsletter: The newsletter has been coming out weekly, and adjustments such as the addition of a "Students' Union Spotlight" section has been added, as well as sharing opportunities within the broader community. Moving forward, I would like to increase the engagement of our newsletter, perhaps by creating a way for it to be automatically posted to our social media or website.



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Website: A revised website is under way, but in the meantime new “Meet the Team”, “Nimbus” and “Volunteer with us” pages have been added, and revisions have been made to various other pages. Next up will be services, which will incorporate promotional videos filmed at each service.

Student Cookbook: One of the first major projects I was involved with was the Student Cookbook Project. For this project, I made promotional materials for the Cookbook Coordinator hiring process, as well as recipe submission materials. Large posters were printed, and promotional cards went into orientation kits and to the soup kitchen. The call for recipes was also shared with various departments across campus, such as the IEC, ISC, BSSO, TLC and Alumni Services.

Election Coordinator Hiring: During the summer I acted on the Elections Coordinator Hiring Committee, creating advertisements for the position as well as a promotional video with the Professional Studies Rep. I sat on the committee and was involved with interviewing three candidates.

Fall-By Elections: In cooperation with the Election Coordinator, I supported the facilitation of the Fall-By Elections. This large undertaking saw the election of 5 new SRC members and included tasks such as a meet the candidates post, election package pick-up post, how to vote as a remote student post, a flyer for voting and candidate information, an elections themed board in the Evaristus tunnel, and attending various elections events like the Elections Social & ACM.

Rook Hiring: In the absence of the Administrative Assistant & Governance Secretary, I had a larger role than expected in the Rook Hiring process. I helped to design an advertisement and collected cover letters and resumes and organized them into the standard hiring format via OneDrive. Over 25 candidates applied through advertisements online as well as printed posters put around campus.



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Orientation: Acted on the Orientation Large Committee, attending planning and brainstorming sessions. I also printed off cards and pamphlets for the cookbook and elections and added them to Orientation Kits, of which I helped pack. Additionally, I attended the first two days and helped with activities like the team building games, casino night, magic show, sunset beach party, waves of change by-stander intervention training, and more. I took photos at all these events and uploaded them to our Flickr.

CUPE 3912 Strike Communication: I was responsible for creating communication for the students surrounding the strike, including the post we made outlining our stance. I also created the feedback form where students could ask questions or express their thoughts on the strike, to then communicate this with the university. I also made a post with all of the Department Chairs and when and how students should contact them with specific questions. With the help of our SM&CC, we created a Strike Q&A post to share with the students. Lastly, I made the form and post requesting student feedback following the strike. This post allows students to express their thoughts and feelings and provides the SU with evidence of how the strike is affecting our students. Within the first 8 hours, over 500 students responded to the form, the highest engagement I've ever seen.

Housing Bursary: Working closely with AA&GS, we created a form and corresponding communication for the housing bursary. With approval from the university, I oversaw the creation and distribution of the housing bursary promotion. Applications are currently open and will close on Sunday, November 23rd.

General Promotional Material: A number of general promotional material was created during this time. This includes Instagram posts and posters for all sorts of events and opportunities. See the attached page with some examples of posters I made so far in my term.



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What is the GRADUATE COMMITTEE?

- ✦ A committee responsible for advocating for graduate students' interests.
- ✦ Developing and implementing initiatives that address student concerns
- ✦ Promoting community building and engagement.





GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Become a member of the

MSVUSU GRADUATE STUDENT COMMITTEE

2025-26

Swipe to learn more about the available positions.



TONIGHT'S BEACH PARTY

HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE ROOK!

7pm - 11pm





Storm Kit Packing Volunteers Wanted!



Tuesday, September 9th, 11:00-3:00pm, The Rook

Storms are scary but being prepared is not! We are looking for volunteers to help us out with this event! Volunteer tasks will include: setting up tables, assisting with putting kits together, running supplies back and forth, helping with take down, and bringing supplies back into the truck. We are offering an honorarium of \$25/hour. Please reach out to vicki.madziak@ecologyaction.ca to sign up.

Storm Kit Packing With Ecology Action Centre!



Tuesday, September 9, 11-3 The Rook

Ecology Action Centre

Come put together your own emergency preparedness storm kit for FREE using shelf-stable food products sourced from Nova Scotia producers and retailers.



MAGIC SHOW WITH VINCENZO RAVINA



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 7-9PM ROSARIA MPR



HOW DO I MAKE A MOTION?

1. Identify the issue: what do you want to happen or to change?
2. Analyze the issue: is there a policy, previous practice, or experience causing this issue?
3. Identify who is responsible for carrying out the intention of this motion: is this something the Students' Union can directly implement or would this motion require external advocacy?

Swipe to learn how to submit your motion →



SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



November 27th, 2025 @ 6pm. McCain 105 or on Teams

Swipe to learn more about the meeting & how to have your ideas and opinions heard! →



WHAT IS THE MSVUSU SAGM?

The general meeting is a meeting of the general membership of an organization. For the MSVUSU, this is all students who pay the Students' Union fee.

The purpose of this meeting is to give an update to the general membership on the goals, advocacy efforts, and all other operations of the organization.

This meeting also provides the opportunity for any member (any MSVU Student) to provide feedback to the Students' Representative Council, and a chance to submit a motion to discuss as a group and the SRC will vote on it.

**HOW DO I
SUBMIT MY MOTION?**

Email your motion to
SUGOVERNANCE@MSVU.CA

**Do you require support with
writing your motion?**

Reach out! Please email
sugovernance@msvu.ca to set up an
appointment before October 31st,
12PM

**ALL MOTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY
NOVEMBER 6th, 12PM**

**DANCE OF THE
DEAD**

+ COSTUME CONTEST WITH PRIZES!

**OCT 30
9PM-12AM
THE ROOK**

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM WEARING MASKS OR FULL FACEPAINT

**Meet Gremi,
the French Bulldog**

**Meet Swayze,
the Black Lab**

**Meet Gracie,
the Golden Doodle**

**Mocktail
Competition**

**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 20TH
4:30-7:00PM
@ The Rook**

**PRIZE
VALUED
AT OVER
\$150!**

Winning mocktail will
join the Rook's Menu!
Sign Up Here



THE ROOK **KEEP IT
SOCIAL** **LIFE**

**Meet Nathan,
the Golden Retriever**

**Meet Flaubert,
the Border Collie &
Black Lab Mix**

**Meet Ralph,
the French Bulldog**

PAWS ROOM
with Therapeutic Paws of Canada

**November 26th, 12-1pm
@ The Rook**

**Swipe to learn about the friends
that will be visiting us!**

Before entering the PAWS Room, students & staff must sign a waiver. Food, drinks, and bags are not allowed on the floor with the dogs. No other animals are permitted inside the pub, and the bar/pool table will be closed during this time.

msvusu

HELP US REPRESENT YOU

The MSVU Senate will meet tomorrow (Monday) to discuss potential changes and next steps to support students affected by the part-time faculty strike.

Members of the MSVUSU SRC will be in attendance to ensure students are accurately represented and advocated for. But to do this properly, we need your help.

Please fill out the feedback form linked in our bio so that we can advocate for students' interests, such as accountability, accessibility and fairness, at tomorrow's meeting.

Vice President of Advocacy and Undergraduate Student Affairs – Meghna Minocha

(Reporting Period: May 1st – November 13th, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Role

This role serves as an advocate for the student voice, addressing their concerns as well as identifying academic issues and barriers within the institutional framework. As the Vice President of Advocacy and Undergraduate Student Affairs, I support students with Academic Appeals, navigate institutional policy concerns, and coordinate advocacy initiatives. I work to ensure that students are meaningfully represented in decision-making spaces and that their needs and experiences are reflected in the development of academic and institutional policies.

Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- Student Executive Committee
- Executive Committee
- Budget Committee

External Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- Senate
- Student Senate Caucus (Chair)
- Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning
- Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee
- Policy Review Committee – Canadian Federation of Students
- Women's Constituency – Canadian Federation of Students
- Small Institutes Caucus – Canadian Federation of Students
- International Students Constituency – Canadian Federation of Students
- Canadian Federation of Students Nova Scotia

External Affairs

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

Policy Review Committee

I served as a Representative of the Nova Scotia Component in the Policy Review Committee for CFS on 2nd and 3rd November. Two motions were discussed with amendments being proposed at the Closing Plenary. These motions were passed, with the proposed amendments.

2025/11:N06 MOTION

Local 32 /

Whereas individual member local students' unions have NOT committed to campaigns to abolish the need for international Student who graduated from a Canadian post-secondary institution to write English exam before qualifying to be considered for PR application; and

Whereas the Federation's policies lack members support for the abolishment of writing this additional English exams like IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and CELPIP after being thought and examined in English by various reputable Canadian professors; therefore

Be it resolved that the Federation's policy provide support:

To abolishment the need for international students who graduated from a Canadian post-secondary institution with a CGPA of 3.0 to write English Exam for the PGWP and/or PR application

Be it further resolved that the Federation write a letter to Minister for Immigration expressing students' support for the abolishment of the requirement to write English Exam; and Be it further resolved that the Federation create a leaflet that outlines why it

is important for the The English exam requirement to be abolished and replaced with academic performance on transcript.

Amendments:

Be it resolved that the Federation's policy provide support:

To abolish the need for international students who graduated from a Canadian post-secondary institution **National Official language Exams** for the PGWP and/or PR application

Be it further resolved that the Federation create a leaflet that outlines why it is important for the **The National Official language exam** requirement to be abolished and replaced with academic performance on transcript.

Be it further resolved that the Federation draft a research brief that describes the government's stated rationale for the recent change in official national language exam requirements, effective narrative building strategies for member locals to speak against this rationale and efforts by other countries, such as Nigeria, to eliminate official national language testing by January 31, 2026 and distribute the brief to all member locals; and

Be it further resolved that the Federation write a letter to Minister for Immigration **utilizing knowledge from the brief**, expressing students' support for the abolishment of the requirement to write **National Official language Exams**;

Be it further resolved that the Federation create a leaflet

that outlines why it is important for the **The National Official language exam** requirement to be abolished and replaced with academic performance on transcript.

2025/11:N07 MOTION

Local 19 /

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has extensive issues-based policies that guide and direct its stances, campaigns, and relations with post-secondary institutions, governments, and media; and

Whereas these policies ensure consistency across Member Locals and the national federation, supporting unified strategies on education accessibility, equity, and social justice; and

Whereas the Federation has not actively maintained its issues-based policies, with the last amendments adopted at the November 2020 National General Meeting; and

Whereas current campaigns may not fully reflect recent developments, such as the rapid growth of digital and hybrid education, chronic federal and provincial defunding of post-secondary institutions, shifts in immigration and international student policies, climate crisis responses in curricula, and evolving threats to freedom of assembly on campuses; and

Whereas policy roundtables could identify priority areas for research, coalition-building, and long-term advocacy, drawing on diverse perspectives to address systemic inequities; and

Whereas dedicated dialogues on issues-based policies, separate from bylaws, services,

or emergency motions, could revitalize CFS's purpose, campaigns, and relations by centering student voices in a changing political landscape; and

Whereas such roundtables could focus on pressing national issues like mental health supports amid austerity, food insecurity in student communities, ethical international student recruitment amid visa caps, housing affordability crises, responses to campus protests and academic freedom, quality assurance in online education, decolonization of curricula, and intersections with global movements for climate and racial justice; and

Whereas CFS can leverage resources from coalition partners, think tanks, elected officials (where appropriate), and Member Locals to strengthen policy reinvigoration; therefore

Be it resolved that the National Executive Committee evaluate the feasibility of one or more policy roundtables, digital, in-person, or hybrid, to facilitate focused dialogues on current post-secondary education issues and related social, economic, and global movements historically and currently addressed by the student movement; and

Be it further resolved that the roundtables balance educational workshops with input from experts in relevant fields, discussions among Member Locals on potential federation stances, and procedural steps for developing or assigning issues-based policies to present at future General Meetings; and

Be it further resolved that a key goal of the roundtables be to provide educational and issues-based training for Member Local Representatives, empowering them to adapt similar policies on their campuses and amplify national priorities locally; and

Be it further resolved that the National Executive Committee establish a working group to review current issues-based policies, identify requirements for amendments and

rescissions, and develop a long-term strategy to update the entire policy framework within the next five years; and

Be it resolved that the National Executive Committee prepare a draft proposal for the above initiatives by March 31, 2026.

Amendments:

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has extensive issues-based policies that guide and direct its stances, campaigns, and relations with post-secondary institutions, governments, and media; and

Whereas these policies ensure consistency across Member Locals and the national federation, supporting unified strategies on education accessibility, equity, and social justice; and

Whereas the Federation has not actively maintained its issues-based policies, with the last amendments adopted at the November 2020 National General Meeting; and

Whereas current campaigns may not fully reflect recent developments, such as the rapid growth of digital and hybrid education, chronic federal and provincial defunding of post-secondary institutions, shifts in immigration and international student policies, climate crisis responses in curricula, and evolving threats to freedom of assembly on campuses; and

Whereas policy roundtables could identify priority areas for research, coalition-building, and long-term advocacy, drawing on diverse perspectives to address systemic inequities; and

Whereas dedicated dialogues on issues-based policies, separate from bylaws, services, or emergency motions, could revitalize CFS's purpose, campaigns, and relations by

centering student voices in a changing political landscape; and

Whereas such roundtables could focus on pressing national issues like mental health supports amid austerity, food insecurity in student communities, ethical international student recruitment amid visa caps, housing affordability crises, responses to campus protests and academic freedom, quality assurance in online education, decolonization of curricula, and intersections with global movements for climate and racial justice; and
Whereas CFS can leverage resources from coalition partners, think tanks, elected officials (where appropriate), and Member Locals to strengthen policy reinvigoration; therefore

Be it resolved that the National Executive Committee establish policy roundtables which include experts and Member Locals to facilitate dialogues on current post-secondary and related social, economic and global issues through balanced educational workshops, to provide educational and issues-based training for Member Local Representatives, and to develop issues-based policies to present at future General Meetings; and
Be it further resolved that the above draft proposal specifically addresses how the Federation will incorporate feedback from all Member Locals, specifically, from small universities, from smaller provinces and Francophone locals.

Be It further resolved that the updated policy framework incorporate an intersectional approach that addresses accessibility, racial justice, gender equity, decolonization, and linguistic diversity.

Be it further resolved that the National Executive Committee establish a working group

to review current issues-based policies, identify requirements for amendments and rescissions, and develop a long-term strategy to update the entire policy framework within the next five years; and

Be it resolved that the National Executive Committee prepare a draft proposal for the above initiatives by March 31, 2026.

Women's Constituency

I was elected as the Women's Constituency Representative (2026-2027) at the CFS AGM on 3rd November.

Small Institutes Caucus

We discussed how the pandemic has caused a decrease in student engagement numbers and discussed strategies on how to increase student engagement rates.

International Students Constituency

There was a lot of discussion on the motion for students to go on strike, and most international students were concerned about the effects of a strike on their status as well as their academics. Most international students were not in favour of this motion and expressed their concerns in the Constituency meetings. The motion for a Nation-wide student strike was defeated at the Closing Plenary on 4th November.

Canadian Federation of Students Nova Scotia

The Nova Scotia Component of CFS has passed a motion for university students in the province to go on strike. MSVUSU had abstained from this motion; however, the motion still passed.

Reflecting on the concerns expressed by international students, as well as a lack of effective research and a safeguard plan, we are going to advocate for not going on a campus-wide strike.

Internal Projects (Ongoing)

Academic Appeals Policy – Updated Model

1. Guiding Principles for a Restorative Justice Approach

a. Harm, repair, relationship & community

Restorative justice emphasizes that misconduct (in this case academic integrity breaches or appeals conflicts) harms not only rules but also the educational community (peers, faculty, institution). The goal is repair and reintegration rather than only exclusion or punishment.

“A restorative justice approach to addressing academic integrity breaches focuses on repairing the harm caused by misconduct rather than punishing the student.” (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)

This aligns with the broader literature:

1. The UNODC “Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes” defines Restorative Justice as “a flexible, participatory and problem-solving response to criminal behaviour, which can provide a complementary or an alternative path to justice. It can improve access to justice, particularly for victims of crime and vulnerable and marginalized populations, including in transitional justice contexts” (1)
2. The Canadian document “Principles and Guidelines for Restorative Justice Practice” emphasizes:
 - “Restorative justice (RJ) has been used to some extent in the criminal justice system in Canada for over 40 years, and there are hundreds of RJ programs across Canada operating at different stages of the system
 - The use of RJ within the criminal justice system is enabled by provisions in the *Criminal Code*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*,

the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*, and by federal, provincial, and territorial government policies

- RJ is an effective response to crime. RJ is used in cases involving young persons and adults, first-time offenders, and repeat offenders, and crimes ranging from minor to serious
- Many RJ programs have learned from Indigenous legal traditions, which have been used by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years to resolve disputes
- RJ values are consistent with and have been informed by the beliefs and practices of many faith communities and cultural groups in Canada
- Canada led and supported the adoption of four resolutions on restorative justice at the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (1999, 2002, 2016, and 2018), including the *United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles on the use of RJ Programmes in Criminal Matters*
- Canada endorses the *United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime* and the *Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime*, and is committed to the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*”

b. Educational, inclusive, equitable

In higher education, this means offering a process that supports student learning, recognizes diverse cultural understandings, and avoids disproportionate impact on marginalized students.

- A policy note from a university states: “Restorative approaches may be employed ... in combination with educational requirements and community service.” (Karp)

c. Procedural fairness

Participants must have a voice, an opportunity to reflect, and a chance to voluntarily engage in the process; power imbalances must be addressed to avoid replicating restrictive systemic barriers.

- The “Promoting Restorative Justice for Children” UN document underscores that restorative processes should be voluntary and should respect the rights of children and communities (17).
- Restorative Justice guidelines emphasize that a vision should include stakeholder involvement, input from community, facilitators, etc. (CICS)

d. Prevention, capacity building, culture shift

Rather than only responding to misconduct, a restorative justice model for academic offences will promote actual growth and development.

- Restorative Justice “promotes accountability and understanding ... supports educational growth ... reduces recidivism ... fosters relationships, community and collaboration.” (Kwantlen Polytechnic University)
- A study about MacEwan University states that “it provides an experiential learning opportunity to all involved that highlights the rootedness of ethical decision-making in relationships and community” (Sopcak and Hood 567)

[Recidivism refers to the tendency to reoffend.]

2. Relevant International / UN-Linked Policy References

While most UN documents focus on criminal or juvenile justice contexts, many of the principles transfer into higher education misconduct frameworks (if adapted appropriately):

- The UNODC “Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes Second Edition” provides foundational definitions and rationale for restorative processes in justice settings.

- The UN document “Promoting Restorative Justice for Children” emphasizes community involvement, reintegration, recovery, and avoiding exclusionary punitive measures.
- The Canadian “Principles and Guidelines for Restorative Justice Practice in Criminal Matters”, although based on criminal matters, offers policy framing that can influence higher-education policy.

In conclusion, we can draw from these documents to argue for a shift away from purely punitive, exclusionary approaches, aiming for inclusive, relational, educational responses. In other words, perceiving academic misconduct through the lens of educational growth and development, rather than an adversarial disciplinary system.

3. Proposed Three-Step Restorative Academic Appeals/Integrity Model

A draft policy framework for MSVU (to be proposed to be adapted to the Senate policy). It uses a three-stage approach for academic misconduct, namely - warning, educational repair, and community involvement. Each stage includes options, responsibilities, outcomes, and appeal/resolution pathways.

3.1 Scope

This model applies to cases of academic misconduct or academic appeals where a student’s action/inaction has had an impact on the academic community, faculty, or student body. The intent is to operationalize the university’s commitment to integrity, inclusion, and restoration.

3.2 Guiding Principles

- All participants (students, faculty, staff) are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness.
- Responses focus on repairing harm, educating, and reintegration rather than solely sanctioning.

- The process supports student learning, development of ethical academic practices, and connection to the academic community.
- The process is culturally responsive, inclusive, and attentive to power dynamics, especially for Indigenous and equity-seeking students.
- Options should be timely, transparent, and incorporate student voice.
- Students are provided with resources, support, and the opportunity to reflect and commit to improved practices.
- Recurrence of misconduct will lead to higher stages of intervention.

3.3 Model Framework

Stage 1: Warning and Reflective Conversations

Minor breach or first offence (or an appeal case where student acknowledges responsibility).

Process:

- The student meets with a designated faculty or staff member (for instance, an academic integrity officer) for a restorative conversation exploring what happened, why it happened, and what harm may have been caused (to self, peers, faculty, institution).
- The student completes a reflective assignment on academic integrity, expectations in MSVU, and how they will act differently.
- A written agreement is created between the student and institution, where the student agrees to specific actions for upcoming work (attending an integrity workshop, meeting with library/instruction centre) within a mutually agreed timeframe.

Outcomes:

- No formal record of misconduct appears on transcript (or minimal formal notation) provided the agreement is completed satisfactorily.

- The student obtains access to educational resources (workshop, peer tutoring) to strengthen integrity practices.
- The student is aware that further misconduct will escalate to Stage 2.

Appeals/Review: If the student believes the matter is mischaracterized, they may request an appeal.

Stage 2: Educational Repair and Engagement

Either a second instance of misconduct after Stage 1, or a first incident in which Stage 1 is considered insufficient.

Process:

- The student participates in a restorative conference or facilitated meeting involving the student, the instructor/faculty member, and possibly a peer-mentor or student integrity advisor. The conversation explores root causes (time management, language, cultural factors, supports), the impact of the behaviour, and collaboratively develops an “academic repair plan”.
- The student undertakes a course or workshop on academic integrity, citations, collaboration norms, etc. (we could develop a module for this).
- The student engages in a community-oriented activity related to academic integrity (peer mentoring in the writing centre, hosting a short workshop for fellow students, contributing to a campus awareness campaign about plagiarism).
- A written agreement is signed (repair plan) with timelines, outcomes and reflection.

Outcomes:

- The incident may be recorded internally, but the student may avoid exclusion or major sanction if they complete the obligations.

- If the student successfully completes all obligations by the deadline, the case is considered resolved.
- The student is notified that any further misconduct will move to Stage 3.

Appeals/Review: Student may appeal the decision to avoid this process or participate in Stage 1 (if they have not committed a prior offence).

Stage 3: Community Involvement & Reintegration

A third offence, or a serious incident.

Process:

- A restorative panel or circle meeting involving the student, faculty/department representative, peer/s (selected by the student) or other stakeholders (could include the Students' Union or Academic Staff) to reflect on the harm/community impact, identify what repair is needed and how the student will reintegrate.
- The student completes a substantial community-oriented project or service tied to academic integrity and the MSVU community (leading or co-designing an academic integrity awareness campaign, facilitating workshops for incoming students, contributing to policy review or peer-education).
- The student enrolls in a course (free course but needs to be completed for them to graduate) about academic integrity, entailing academic ethics, procedures, supports, resources, and so on based on the student's needs.
- The student develops a reflective portfolio or presentation on what they learned, how they will change practices, and how they have contributed/will contribute to the community's integrity.

Outcomes:

- A more formal record may be placed on file (with a clear timeframe for review).
- Depending on severity, additional sanctions may be applied/dropped, but only after the restorative components are completed/reviewed.
- The student is required to meet periodically with a mentor or integrity advisor throughout the remainder of their program (for example, once per semester) to support reintegration.

Appeals/Review: Student may appeal the process or may request to participate in other stages (if this is their first offence).

3.4 Policy Integration & Process Flow

- Include a clear flow-chart in the policy showing how incidents move from Stage 1 to Stage 2 to Stage 3, with options for escalation, review and appeals.
- Incorporate definitions (academic misconduct, harm, repair, community, etc.) that align with MSVU's equity, diversity, inclusion, Indigenous engagement frameworks. The current definitions are not very clear.
- Provide roles and responsibilities (academic integrity officer/advisor, peer-mentors, community partners).
- Outline supports available (writing centre, library instruction, peer mentoring, counselling, equity services) to address underlying causes (English as an additional language, time-management, mental health, etc.).
- Efficient data-tracking and review of the restorative system; that is, the frequency of each stage, completion rates, student feedback, and recurrence rates.
- Training for facilitators - restorative conversations, conferences or panels for Restorative Justice facilitation, cultural responsiveness, power dynamics, etc.

- Provide safeguards: Students must have the right to be heard, to appeal, to request an alternate process, voluntary participation in restorative processes, clear timelines, and confidentiality provisions.
- Option for opt-in/opt-out: For some cases, if a student declines the restorative option, the institution may proceed via updated disciplinary pathways (but this should be rare and reviewed).
- Ensure monitoring and review to evaluate effectiveness, reduction in repeat offences, student satisfaction, and fairness in outcomes across equity groups.

3.5 Brief Sample Policy Text (this needs to be more detailed)

The University is committed to fostering a culture of academic integrity grounded in learning, inclusivity, and community. Recognizing that academic misconduct impacts students, faculty, and the institution, the University will respond in ways that emphasize repairing harm, supporting student learning, and reintegration into the academic community. In doing so, the University moves beyond a purely punitive model toward a restorative justice-informed approach.

Stage 1: Warning and Reflective Conversations

When a student is found to have committed the first instance of minor academic misconduct, the student will be invited to meet with an Integrity Officer for a reflective conversation. The student will complete a reflective assignment and agree to an action plan. If the student fulfils the requirements within the agreed timeframe, the matter will be concluded without formal sanction, and a record of misconduct will not appear on the transcript.

Stage 2: Educational Repair and Engagement

In the case of a second offence, or a first offence where Stage 1 is considered insufficient, the student will participate in a facilitated restorative meeting, complete an integrity workshop, and engage in a community-oriented assignment relating to academic integrity. Successful completion will resolve the matter pending review; failure to complete will lead to escalation to Stage 3.

Stage 3: Community Involvement & Reintegration

In the case of a third offence, or more serious misconduct, the student will engage in a restorative panel or circle meeting involving the student, faculty/department representative, peer/s (selected by the student) or other stakeholders (could include the Students' Union or Academic Staff), lead or co-design a community integrity initiative, maintain a mentor relationship through the remainder of their program, and enroll in a course on academic integrity (which will need to be completed in order for them to graduate). Additional formal sanctions may be applied/dropped following the outlined restorative obligations.

The University reserves the right to escalate at any stage where the harm is significant, or the student does not engage. At all stages, students retain the right to appeal and receive fairness in procedural decisions, participate voluntarily, and access support.

The outcomes of this model will be reviewed annually, with data disaggregated across equity-seeking groups to ensure fairness and remove barriers, consistent with the University's commitment to decolonizing practices and maintaining an inclusive academic culture.

4. Next Steps and Implementation Considerations

- Review MSVU's current Senate policy and map where the new model needs to be implemented and what needs to be removed/modified.

- Consult with Indigenous Student Centre, EDIA Committee, Students' Union, Faculty, Administration, Committee on Academic Policy and Planning, International Student Centre, Black Student Support Office, etc.
- Develop training modules for restorative conversations and appoint peer mentors or academic integrity advisors.
- Design the educational workshop/module on academic integrity (to be used in Stage 2).
- Create a flow-chart and policy annex with roles, timelines, and record-keeping guidelines.
- Pilot the model (perhaps for a term) and evaluate academic community satisfaction, recidivism, and equity outcomes.
- Incorporate a review system: annual reporting to Senate/Committee on Academic Policy and Planning on restorative system outcomes.
- Ensure alignment with MSVU's broader strategic priorities (student success, inclusive campus, decolonization, academic excellence).
- Communicate to students (orientation, services, pamphlets), faculty, staff, so that expectations and resources are clear.

6. References

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“Principles and Guidelines for Restorative Justice Practice in Criminal Matters (2018).” *Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety*, CICS, 29 Aug. 2019, <https://scics.ca/en/product-produit/principles-and-guidelines-for-restorative-justice-practice-in-criminal-matters-2018/>.

Promoting Restorative Justice for Children. United Nations, 2016. PDF. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2599Promoting_restorative_justice.pdf

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UNODC. *Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes*. 2nd ed., Thailand Institute of Justice, 2020. PDF. https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/20-01146_Handbook_on_Restorative_Justice_Programmes.pdf

Sexual Health Week

Aim: Spread awareness about hygiene, pleasure, protection, and consent.

Purpose: Encourage conversations around sexual health and teach students about sexual health.

Process:

- Reach out to partnerships and collaboration organizations, alumni, different University departments, faculty, and administration

- Organize workshops, seminars, gift bags, educational brochures, and interactive activities
- Encourage faculty, administration, and staff to participate
- Invite faculty and researchers to share their work on sexual health – student research assistantship opportunities
- Sexual Health Ambassadors (student volunteer opportunities/ CCR)
- Interactive Art Installation (for self-expression)
- Waves of Change
- Sex Toy Bingo (Venus Envy)

Benefits: Initiate meaningful conversations around sexual health, connect students with external organizations, boost faculty-student-admin-staff engagement, and create research opportunities for students

Potential Time Period: 19th January-23rd January

[we can also extend it across the span of a couple of weeks or a month if needed]

Potential Sub-themes for Each Day:

DAY	THEME
1	Destigmatizing conversations and diversity in sexuality and health
2	STIs, contraception and safety
3	Consent, communication and respect
4	Healthy and safe exploration
5	Research, advocacy and resources

Sexual Health Ambassador Program Outline:

1. Role of Ambassadors

- Facilitate peer-to-peer conversations
- Support events and workshops
- Help distribute resources and gift bags
- Promote Sexual Health Week online and on campus
- Uphold safe and inclusive spaces
- Receive training from professionals/partner organizations

2. Benefits for Ambassadors

- CCR or volunteer hours
- Free sexual health training + certification (if possible)
- Networking with researchers, faculty, health organizations
- Leadership and event planning experience
- Reference letters

3. Recruitment Process

- Application form
- Short informal interview or group orientation
- Mandatory training session
- Role assignments

4. **Ambassador Roles**

- Outreach – Tabling, promotions, class-to-class announcements
- Event Facilitators – Organizing activities, hosting, art installation
- Research Liaisons – Faculty research opportunities

Networking and Communities Pool

This project was aimed at reaching out to various communities, organizations, and societies to create a social network for students, where students can engage with and learn more about various communities and social issues as well as have access to supports and resources. I have compiled a list of organizations and communities; however, their contact information is either not up-to-date or does not exist. I am trying to find other organizations to contact and also find a more effective way to continue this project.

Co-op and Internship Opportunities for Students (On Hold)

This project is connected to the *Networking and Communities Pool* Project, as in, it is supposed to be the next phase for the aforementioned project. I was planning on using the social network to further create a network of organizations that would be willing to have placements for our co-op and internship students, as students have expressed issues and challenges with finding placements.

Project Homecoming (On Hold)

This project is designed to support students experiencing financial strain by getting funding for them to travel home when they cannot afford the cost themselves. The goal is to reduce the stress associated with unexpected or essential travel, ensuring students are able to reconnect with family, access support systems, or attend to personal obligations without financial barriers.

Mental Health Campaign

The draft for this plan is still ongoing.

SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (SAGM)

Vice President – Research & Graduate Students Affairs - Orinari Francis Wokoma

(Reporting period: May 01 – October 31, 2025)

Summary of Role:

The position of Vice President, Research & Graduate Student Affairs serves as an Executive in the Students Union working with graduate students to provide programs and services that meet the needs of graduate and research students. I support student union functions by supporting research initiatives and research students in their supervisor/supervisee relationships. I act as advisor to the Executive Committee and Student's Representative Council as well as other sub-committees. As the VP – Research & Graduate Student Affairs, I serve on the following committees:

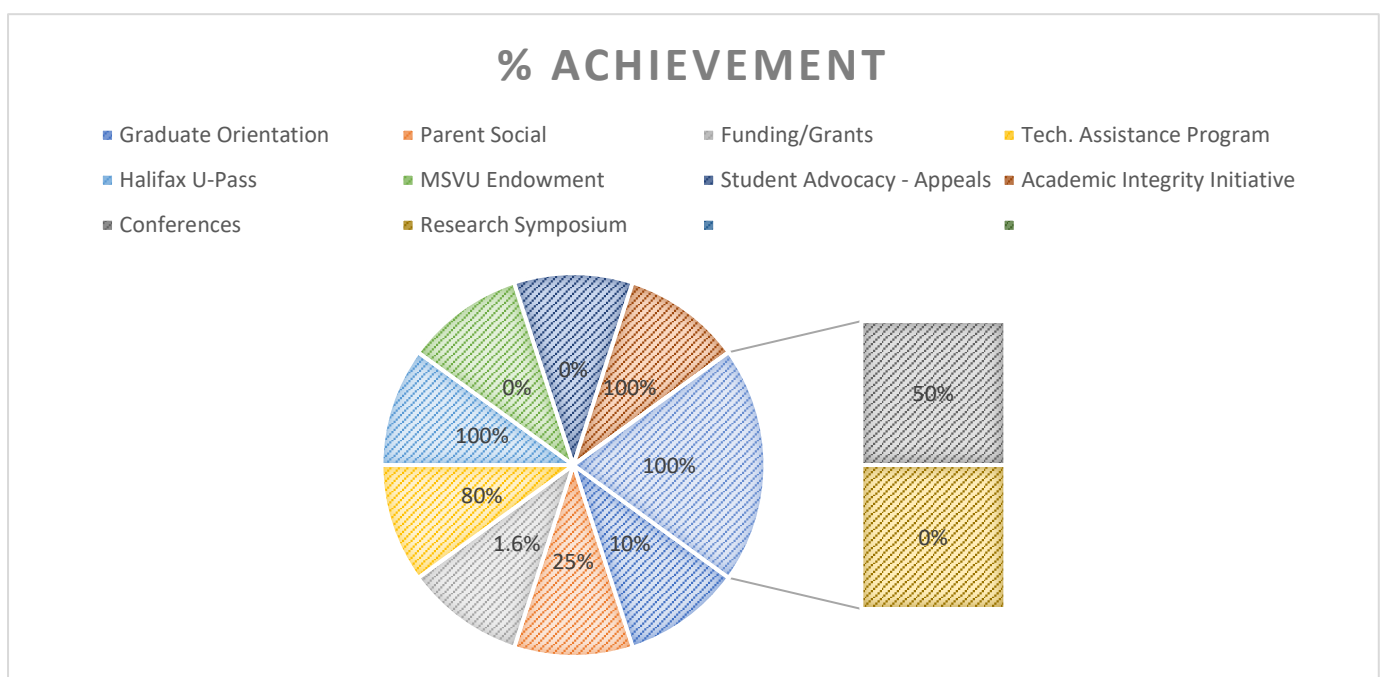
- Senate & Senate Student Caucus – Senator & Member
- Graduate Students Committee (Chair) - Working closely to revise existing and establish new graduate student specific programs, services, and community connection initiatives.
- Graduate Studies Program & Policy Committee (GSPPC) – Graduate students' representative
- Committee on Academic and Policy Planning (CAPP) – Secondary member
- Orientation committee (Planning & Large) – Member
- Board of Governors (Advancement & External relations committee) – Member

A few key duties are:

- Plan and execute orientation week planning committee meetings and orientation events
- Address academic issues within the Graduate and research student communities
- Promote a culture of academic integrity on campus, particularly amongst Graduate and Research students
- Establish collaborations with the Dean of Graduate & Professional Studies, VP-Academic & Provost, MSVU Research Office, Graduate Academic Units and Graduate Students Societies.

- Build collaborations with Accessibility Services, Black Student Support Office (BSSO), Indigenous Center (ISC), International Education Center (IEC).
- Provide support to the leadership of all MSVUSU services in reviewing policies, procedures, and provide guidance with regulation and standards, or as may be required.
- Work with the Canadian Federation of Students to ensure students receive maximum benefit from their membership and represent MSVUSU at the National General Meeting, National Graduate Caucus, NS-AGM and during National and Provincial Lobby Weeks and other events as appropriate.
- Attend and actively participate in the Annual conference of the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies

Summary of Projects



1. Project Title/Theme: Fall Graduate Orientation

Brief Summary: The Graduate orientation is an event designed to welcome and equip our incoming graduate students with a comprehensive overview of the academic and ancillary resources available to them on campus. The orientation plays a pivotal role in introducing new graduate students to the tools and supports that would shape their academic journey at MSVU. It also offers a valuable opportunity for students to engage directly with faculty, staff, and university services, hence fostering both academic and social connections.

Achievement/Progress to-Date: This years' orientation was successfully held on Wednesday September 3, 2025. MSVU expected a total of 471 graduate students. A pre-attendance survey was developed and sent out and we received responses from 105 students with 38 graduate students opting to attend in-person while a good number others opted to attend online.

2. Project Title/Theme: Student Parent Social

Brief Summary: This event was a social networking gathering of graduate students with children. It was aimed at building connections

Achievement/Progress to-Date: The event took place at the MSVU Gymnasium at Rosaria and featured lots of fun stuff like spike ball, basketball, tether board, skee ball, inflatable darts, jenga and a variety of board games. There was light refreshment - snacks and also back-to-school items for the children. This event successfully hosted about 35 children from 10-12 parents in attendance.

3. Project Title/Theme: Funding & Grants

Brief Summary: RBC Atlantic Newcomer Specialist team was contacted to explore areas of collaboration and funding opportunities.

Achievement/Progress to-Date: After several virtual and in-person engagement, a grant of \$6,000 (Six Thousand CAD) was secured for the Food Bank. Fund came in four tranches of \$1,500/tranche. We are hoping to explore other areas of collaboration such as: setting up of a banking kiosk on campus to serve our student population. We are exploring other collaborations with other financial institutions. In addition, funding of \$1,765 was secured as sponsorship to attend the CAGS conference. Total funding generated within the period under review - \$7,765.00CAD.

4. Project Title/Theme: Technology Assistance Program

Brief Summary: The MSVUSU Technology Assistance Program (TAP) is a proactive response to close this digital access gap by providing students with the tools they need to succeed. It's three-pronged approach: Laptop Acquisition Support (LAS) – aimed at providing financial assistance to new students experiencing financial hardship to purchase laptops; Disability Technology Support Program (DTSP) –

aimed at providing specialized technology for new students with disabilities to ensure equitable access to academic resources; and the Laptop Loan Pool (LLP) – a managed inventory of laptops for short-term (48-hour renewable) loans to support urgent academic needs.

Achievement/Progress to-Date: We sought support towards laptop donations, network, partnership, and financial support. We have received donation of eight laptops (5 MacBooks, 2 Hp laptops, and 1 Dell laptop). 2 of the MacBooks have been assigned internally to support students. A meeting was held with IT for support and advise. We are also seeking funding of about \$2,000 for the purchase of softwares - Deepfreeze software and Microsoft Office.

Addendum: We have also reached out to the Leadership of Geo-Nova Scotia towards exploring potential collaboration, referrals and support - through donations of laptops, software resources, or introduction to networks that can help us expand this initiative. We have received a promising response and would be having a virtual meeting to discuss the TAP program along with a Tuition Waiver Program with MSVU.

5. Project Title/Theme: Halifax Transit U-Pass

Brief Summary: The U-Pass transit bus program was introduced in Fall 2007 and reconfirmed in 2010 through an agreement between MSVU Students' Union (MSVUSU), MSVU, and Halifax Transit. This mandatory program offers unlimited and affordable access to Halifax Transit buses (with some limited exclusions), ferry, and Access-A-Bus (for registered users) from September 1 to April 30. Currently, graduate and undergraduate students registered in at least 1.5 units of credit, as well as co-op students, education students on practicum, and dietetic interns, are eligible for the U-Pass transit service. Also, students enrolled in at least 1.5 units of credit for the Winter term only pay half the yearly U-Pass fee. While the U-Pass provides significant benefits, its current eligibility leaves out a substantial segment of the MSVU community – full-time students taking a single course, part-time students (1.0unit course or less), students enrolled in summer courses, students with disabilities, students on co-op etc. Students often depend heavily on public transit for academic, work, and community engagement, yet bear the full financial cost of regular fares. We are seeking the expansion of U-Pass access through an opt-in/opt-out mechanism, ensuring that all students, regardless of enrolment status, have the choice to benefit.

Achievement/Progress to-Date: A meeting has been scheduled for Thursday November 20, 2025. MSVUSU is (amongst others) seeking a re-evaluation of the full-time requirement, expanding eligibility to students with academic or professional experiences within HRM, regardless of course load. We believe that by broadening access through opt-in options and flexibility in eligibility, accessibility will be enhanced, creating a more impactful benefit for MSVU students, MSVU, Halifax Transit, and the wider community.

6. Project Title/Theme: MSVUSU Endowment Fund

Brief Summary: The MSVUSU Endowment Fund is a strategic initiative aimed at building an investment pool of **\$500,000 to \$1,000,000**, generating annual returns of between **\$22,500 to \$45,000** to fund targeted socio-economic interventions for students. These interventions address challenges that affect students academically, economically, and socially.

Achievement/Progress to-Date: A synopsis has been submitted to the Advancement team. Follow-up mail has been sent and we are awaiting responses and engagement. We are hoping to explore other external opportunities.

7. Project Title/Theme: Student Advocacy - Appeals

Brief Summary: During the period under review, two (2) academic offences were brought to this office. – Academic Suspension and Academic Dismissal. Both issues were of high importance as it involved international students.

Achievement/Progress to-Date: Students were successfully supported through the entire appeal process. Appeals were successful and penalties were reversed.

8. Project Title/Theme: MSVUSU Academic Integrity Initiative

Brief Summary: This initiative is in collaboration with the Dean – Graduate and Professional Studies. It involves developing video clips to create awareness about Academic Integrity.

Achievement/Progress to-Date: Action points, along with key highlights of the video clip were also

developed, along with consequences and knowledge mobilization. Awaiting response from the Dean and then proceed to next phase. Projected completion date would be in Winter 2026 term

9. Project Title/Theme: Conferences – Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) NGM & Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) AGM

Brief Summary: MSVUSU was represented at the 44th Annual National General meeting of the Canadian Federation of students (CFS), held on October 31 – November 4, 2025 at the Sheraton hotel and Conference center in Toronto, Ontario. Also, I represented Graduate students at the 63rd Annual Canadian Association of Graduate Students (CAGS) Conference, held on November 4 – 7, 2025 at Delta City Centre hotel in Ottawa, Ontario.

Achievement/Progress to-Date: The CFS NGM conference focused on issues around national student policy, collective advocacy, governance, and strategies to advance the rights and needs of member locals in Canada. The CAGS conference focused on the theme: “Graduate Education as a Public Good: Leadership, Advocacy, and Impact.”. It was very enriching, educative, and collaborative. A summary report on the CAGS conference is being prepared for submission to the Dean for review and discussion on recommendations.

10. Project Title/Theme: Research Symposium

Brief Summary: This initiative is in collaboration with the Science Rep. – Jessica Ryuzaki. Contacts have been made to Faculty and also with CFS for support and collaboration. Program is scheduled for January, 2026 (Winter term).

Achievement/Progress to-Date: However, after some collaboration and networking during the CAGS conference, this would be review to the MSVU 3MT and Storytelling competition.

Participation in Cross-Functional Projects

Academic Appeal: Collaborated with VP-Advocacy on academic appeals; Collaborated with the Fountain Center during the Student Parent Social; Collaborated with the Strategic Operations Manager on review of contractual agreements between MSVUSU & Minnikin, also MSVU & Nimbus Learning; Collaborated with team on Executive reviews; Provided dialogical operational support for The Rook and Food Bank.

Respectfully,

Orinari Francis Wokoma
VP-Research & Graduate Students’ Affairs

Vice President Student Life Report – Grace MacInnis

Brief Summary of Your Role

The responsibilities of the Vice President of Student Life lies in leading and coordinating student activities for the students' union. Since commencing the term, working on several internal committees such as the Orientation Planning Committee and Executive Committee has been some of the main priorities of the roll. Being the liaison between the university and the executive committee members, working with orientation leaders to help facilitate orientation events and working with the Strategic Operators Manager to plan events is a large part of this role. The Vice President of Student Life participates with committees & working groups to organize and deliver events for students to experience on campus. In addition, it falls on the Vice president of Student Life, with cooperation from the Vice President of Communication, to aid the various societies with issues and event concerns.

Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- Budget committee
- Society Affairs Committee (Chair)
- Crisis Communication Committee
- Student Executive Committee
- Executive Committee

External Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- Student Experience Committee
- Orientation Steering Committee
- Orientation Planning Committee
- Large Orientation Committee

Project Title/Theme *Fall Orientation 2025*

Brief Summary: Planed and coordinated orientation events with the university. Some events included, team building games, sex toy bingo, casino night, Citadel Hill Ghost Tour, a magician and many more. Trained and organized orientation leaders for events, guiding them where necessary. Packed and handed out orientation kits to new students.

Achievement/Progress to Date: Most events had a great turnout, particularly the team building games. We painted flags and learned chants and then proceeded to play competitive games. The energy and excitement was beyond what I expected. A few events lacked turnout but nonetheless those who joined had a great time. I would recommend heavier promotion on our side, and through collaborative efforts with other groups like the mount mentors. Although some events had to be cancelled or relocated due to weather and technical difficulties, I think most events when smoothly.

Vice President Student Life Report – Grace MacInnis

Project Title/Theme *Weekly Trivia*

Brief Summary: For the month of September, we organized weekly trivia nights, which were hosted by different societies and funded by the Students Union. We did have some difficulties with societies being able to host and only had 2 out of 3 scheduled events.

Achievement/Progress to Date: The turnout was as I expected; attendance was high for the first trivia night and much smaller for the second. Overall, I do think it is a good idea to have consistent events, like weekly trivia, but perhaps biweekly would work better in a future month.

Project Title/Theme *Dance of the Dead*

Brief Summary: This event was a Halloween dance with the Rook. Costumes were encouraged with a contest for the best costume. This was held to line up with the residence life event happening in hopes people would come from one to the other.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event had a great turnout; I do think the costume contest really helped improve turnout as the contest was promoted to happen between 10pm and 11pm. We had lots of people show up then, and people stayed for the full length of the event.

Project Title/Theme *Collage Night with the Buddy program*

Brief Summary: This event will be a collage/craft night in the Rook in collaboration with the buddy program. The hope of this event is to help promote the program by providing a fun and relaxing activity with snacks and drinks.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event is planned to be in November, and I am currently just waiting for more information from the buddy program members to finalize the date. Supplies have almost all been purchased, and the event is almost finalized!

Project Title/Theme *Coffee bar and study/relax*

Brief Summary: This event will be a study session with a free iced coffee bar. This event will happen prior to exams to help students study, relax, and enjoy some free coffee during a stressful time.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event is planned to be at the end of November/early December and may even happen twice. We are still in the early parts of planning this, but it will be underway in the following weeks.

Project Title/Theme *Silent Disco*

Brief Summary: This event will be a back-to-school event happening after students return from Christmas break. It will be a silent Disco where all students will wear headphones with different music channels.

Vice President Student Life Report – Grace MacInnis

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event is not until January, so planning is not starting until late November. Company outreach and booking will start in the following weeks.

Participation in and Upcoming Cross-Functional Projects

Name of the Project: Ski trip

A collaboration with Residence Life to help coordinate and fund the ski trip this year, to help allow more students to attend and lower the overall cost of the trip this year. This event may happen twice this year, once with residence life and once with the ISC. I plan to meet with Emma Charles to discuss details this week, to help determine how we can help.

Name of the Project: Diwali

I assisted the International Student Society with Diwali; the event was planned entirely by them with great turnout. I simply helped promote and oversaw the event and assisted with technical difficulties when needed.

Name of the Project: Winter Orientation

I will be working with Residence Life and staff of the university to plan the Winter Orientation for new and returning students. Some possible events include a silent disco, trivia, bingo, and a craft night.

Name of the Project: Monthly Trivia and Bingo

I am coordinating with the Rook assistant Manager to host monthly trivia and bingo. These events will continue for the rest of the year, on the same date each month. For example, hosting trivia on the first Thursday of every month, and bingo on the last Thursday of the month.

Name of the Project: Society trivia nights

Society trivia nights have continued past orientation, with them being hosted by the society and funding provided by the Students Union. We are aiming for more collaborative events with societies this year and are open to any events and ideas.

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to November, 6, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Role:

The Student Representative Council (SRC) Residence Representative is a member of the SRC who advocates for and provides support to students in MSVU residence. In this role, I represent residence students by voicing their perspectives on several committees and planning events focused on their advancement. I also offer support for residence students regarding all related concerns and provide feedback to MSVU Residence Life.

Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups:

- AAC (Academic Appeals Committee)
- SCOITS (Committee on Information Technology and Services)
- SJC (Student Judicial Committee)
- SDAC (Student Discipline Appeals Committee)

External Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups:

- Social Summer Club Planning Committee (from IEC)
- International Student Society (ISS)

MSVUSU Student Services:

- Captain Crow's Cafe - MSVU Soup Kitchen (Volunteer) *February 2025 - Present*
Assist in the preparation and serving of nutritious meals. Maintains a clean and organized kitchen workspace.

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to November, 6, 2025)

- MSVU Foodbank (Volunteer) *September 2025 - Present*

Assist in the preparation and distribution of items. Ensure that items are safely stocked and organized, and maintain a clean and organized food bank workspace.

- Fountain Play Centre (Volunteer) *September 2025 - Present*

Assist in supervising children in the play area and keeping the environment. Possibly helping with check-in / check-out of children, ensuring enrollment and attendance records are maintained. Following safety protocols: knowing emergency procedures, first aid, child abuse registry guidelines. Ensure safety and maintain a clean and hygienic environment for children.

Organizer:

- Board/Video Game Night at the Rook (MSVU campus pub) | July 25, 2025 (3PM-6PM)

Collaborate with Social Summer Club Planning Committee (from IEC), Residence Life, MSVUSU, Captain Crow's Cafe - MSVU Soup Kitchen

- Diwali | October 20, 2025 (12PM - 3PM)

Collaborate with International Student Society (ISS)

- Move-Out Donation (Residence Life, MSVUSU, MSVU Foodbank) | (Upcoming events: The moving out date is December 16 for Fall 2025 and April 22 for Winter 2026).

Objective: To reduce waste and support the MSVU Food Bank by collecting unwanted, usable items from students moving out of residence.

Action Plan: Collaboration: Work with Residence Life and the Food Bank Manager to facilitate donations during the Fall 2025 (Dec 16) and Winter 2026 (Apr 22) move-out periods.

Promotion: Post notices on Residence bulletin boards to inform students about the donation

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to November, 6, 2025)

opportunity. Collection Strategy (Option 1 - Preferred): Advise students to leave items in the residence lounges. This allows staying students to take what they need, and then Food Bank volunteers would access the buildings to collect the remaining items. Collection Strategy (Option 2 - Alternative): If Residence Life prohibits external access, ask them to collect the donations from the lounges and hold them at the Residence Life Office for Food Bank volunteers to pick up.

Volunteer:

- Fall 2025 Orientation Leader:
Promoted orientation events and gave campus tours. Help set up events, manage icebreakers activities and take photos for social media. Connected students to campus resources and answered questions from students.
- Chopped Event (Applied Human Nutrition department) | May 30, 2025
- Summer Academic Advising | July 4, 2025
- Girls Conference | May 22, 2025
- Diwali Lunch (IEC & Chartwells) | October 22, 2025
- Note Taker Volunteer (Accessibility Services): BUSI*2260, BUSI*3360, BUSI*3311 (Fall 2025)
- Research Study: Appetite Lab | Department of Applied Human Nutrition, Mount Saint Vincent University
*Study title: Sensory, satiating and glycaemic characteristics of cheese and non-dairy alternative products to cheese
- Research Study: MSVU EEG Lab | Department of Psychology

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to November, 6, 2025)

*Study title: Do your childhood experiences change the way you see and hear the world?

Participation:

- Dance Of The Dead (Halloween) | October 30, 2025
- Connecting Through Food (Chartwells & MSVUSU & MSVU Foodbank) | October 26, 2025
- Storm Kit Packing (Ecology Action Centre) | September 9
- Tech Fair | September 3, 2025
- MSVU Student Cookbook

Student Advocacy:

- Residence Life:

Shared Kitchen Hygiene Initiative:

I addressed a long-standing sanitation issue in shared residence kitchens caused by forgotten and rotting food. Action Taken: Contacted RAs and Residence Life to implement two new policies: Mandatory food labeling (name and date). Resident sign-up system for dry storage shelf space. Result: The changes immediately increased resident accountability, significantly reduced clutter and spoilage, and improved the overall health and hygiene of the living environment.

E-Waste and Safety Proposal

I addressed resident concerns about the lack of safe disposal for batteries and electronic waste, which posed a fire hazard. Action Taken: Submitted a formal proposal to

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to November, 6, 2025)

Residence Life requesting the immediate implementation of dedicated e-waste and battery collection bins near entrances or the Residence Life Office.

Additional Maintenance

Emailed Residence Life to report the unsanitary condition of the oil range hood in the Birch 5 kitchen.

- AAC (Academic Appeals Committee): I had a follow-up meeting and advised the student to reach out to the International Education Centre (IEC). The IEC subsequently connected the student with the Anti-Harassment and Discrimination department regarding their advocacy case related to Academic Appeals.

SRC Meeting:

I actively participated in discussions and decisions that impacted students, specifically regarding CUPE Local 3912 (the union representing part-time faculty at MSVU). I stressed the importance of the students' union serving students, not faculty. I also highlighted the concern that supporting CUPE Local 3912 could lead to increases in tuition and international differential fees, which would significantly impact all students, particularly international students.

Accessibility Representative – Tanner Saunders
(Reporting Period: October 10, 2025, to November 7, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Role

The Accessibility Representative represents and advocates for students with all types of disabilities, both visible and invisible on the SRC. As Accessibility Representative, I advocate for creating accessible education, built environments, and delivery of goods and services, among other areas of focus. I do this through hosting events, creating partnerships, and voicing the concerns of students to the SRC and University Administration.

Committees

Still in the process of joining committees since being elected October 10, 2025.

Hosted Events

None as of November 3rd, 2025

Current Projects & Campus Involvement (As of November 3rd, 2025)

Meeting with Accessibility Services – In the process of meeting with all the Accessibility Services staff to better inform myself on current issues or trends they have noticed, services offered, and potential areas for collaboration or events. To add to this, I am designing a poster so students can get to know the advisors a little better and hopefully reduce any anxieties they may have about approaching them. I have asked each of the Accessibility Advisors to provide a short description of what got them into this kind of work and am waiting to hear back.

Reviewing the MSVU Accessibility Plan (2025 – 2028) – Currently going through the 24-page Accessibility Plan to better understand MSVU's vision, and plan for creating an accessible

campus. I am also providing my comments and criticism where needed to ensure that students affected by this plan will receive the best possible representation. So far, a draft of my comments and concerns have been completed and I am in the process of turning it into a more presentable format.

List of Student Concerns – Since starting my role, I have been collecting complaints from students regarding the accessibility on campus. This includes inaccessible classrooms (not posting slides, no Moodle usage, etc.), inaccessible built environments (unreliable chair lifts), and general complaints or suggestions. As the list grows I will see if there is any trends or major issues and work with the respectable parties to see how students affected by those issues can be accommodated or work to fix them all together.

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative – Leila Sobey-Skinner

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to November 7, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Role

The 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative on the Mount Saint Vincent University Students' Union (MSVUSU) Student Representative Council (SRC) is an elected Member dedicated to 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy. The MSVUSU expects each SRC member to carry out their work and to put forth their best effort to support the students they represent and contribute to the broader MSVU community.

During this reporting period, I worked to support and advocate for 2SLGBTQIA+ students at MSVU by attending meetings, engaging with students, and collaborating with fellow council members. I worked alongside other representatives to address concerns, promote visibility, and ensure members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ needs were communicated within the Students' Union.

Events Hosted

Pride Centre Meet & Greet – I helped organize a meet-and-greet with the Pride Centre to give 2SLGBTQIA+ students a welcoming space to connect, learn about resources, and build community. This event supported student engagement and strengthened collaboration between the Students' Union and the Pride Centre.

Councilor Report

Reporting Period: October 10th - November 27th

Board of Governors Representative

Jackson MacIntyre

Hello everyone! I'm Jackson MacIntyre (He/Him), a fourth-year student completing a BSc (Honours) in Psychology at the Mount. You may remember me as your Residence Representative during my first two years on council, however, as of this year's fall-by election, I am now your Board of Governors Representative. As the Board of Governors Representative, my constituency is all students as it is my job to fight for students' needs through the board of governors committee. Below is my report outlining things that I have done as the Board of Governors Representative since I was elected on October 10th.

During this time, I've been representing students on boards and committees:

- Board of Governors
- Advancement and External Relations Committee
- Campus Planning Committee

Student Union and Residence Life events I've been a part of include:

- Fall Volleyball Cup (Participant)
- Fall Convocation (Academic Procession – October 19th)
- Chancellor's Dinner (Board of Governors – October 19th)
- Garden Society Pumpkin Carnival (Volunteer – October 24th)
- Halloween Dance & Social (Participant – October 30th)

While I haven't had much time to host an event yet, look out for one to come to the Rook on January 10th! Outside of council, I'm an honours student with Derek Fisher where I'm researching EEG microstates in bipolar disorder with and without auditory hallucinations. Whether it's research or playing cards, I'm almost always on campus so don't hesitate to say hello. Thank you for your continued support, and if you have any questions or need a friend, you can contact me at Jackson.MacIntyre2@msvu.ca.

Councilor Report

Gender Advocacy Representative

Juliana Fanning

Hello everyone! My name is Juliana Fanning (She/Her), a fourth-year student in a BSc in Biology with a minor in Cultural Studies and Neuroscience. My constituency is all students, with a focus on representing those who identify with equity-denied genders. My goal is to ensure that all decisions made on campus include a space for these genders, creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students!

Enclosed in my report is an outline of the ways I have been involved in the Students' Union.

During this time, I've been representing students on several committees:

- Undergraduate Admissions, Scholarships and Awards (UASAC)
- Student Discipline Appeals Committee (SDAC)
- Pay & Honorarium Committee
- Health Insurance Plan Committee

Student Union and Campus events I've been a part of include:

- Making events Accessibility SU workshop
- Waves of Change (Sexual violence bystander intervention) Facilitator Training - (Participant – August 8)
- RA and Orientation leader waves of change training (Organizer – September 1)
- Residence Welcome Dinner (Participant – August 31)
- Casino Night (Participant – September 1)
- Campus tours (Organizer – September 2)
- Sex, Healthy relationship, and Sex toy BINGO (Participant – September 2)

Citadel Hill Ghost Tour (Participant/helping Guild students with Organizer –

September 4)

- Sunset beach party (Participant – September 5)
- Storm Kit Distribution (Participant – September 9)
- Magician show (Participant – September 12)
- Frist Week pizza party Westwood 4&5 Floor (Participant)
- Weekly Trivia Night (Participant – September 16)
- Edible & Medicinal Plant walk (Participant – September 19)
- Pumkin Carnival (Organizer – September 24)



- Weekly Trivia night (Participant)
- Volleyball Cup (Participant – September 22)
- Boo-ify your Candy Bag (Organizer – October 24)
- Halloween Dance and Social (Participant – October 30)
- Sex Toy music Bingo (Participant)

Projects:

Created and gave a presentation during SRC meeting, allowing new SRC members to be educated on role of council members and informed on the way the SU works. As well as contacted other student supports to organize events for the upcoming semester.

Outside of council, I am vice president campus correspondence for the Garden Society, and a member of jack.org and the science society. I also serve as the Westwood RCA on the Residence Life team. These roles have allowed me to connect with other students and build a strong community. I'm grateful for your support and encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, ideas, or if you just want a safe space to talk, you can contact me at sugenderrep@msvu.ca.



msvusu

Mount Saint Vincent University
Students' Union | msvusu.ca

Hub Manager – Peter Cromwell

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to November 7, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Role

This role oversees the day-to-day operations of the Hub and its staff. As Hub manager, I support my staff through answering questions, training and ensuring continued success of new and/or returning staff, scheduling, etc. I also have shifts at the Hub alongside my staff.

Supervision and Hiring

Brief Summary: Over this period, I've been overseeing the running of the Hub and its staff, ensuring a smooth and efficient experience for our visitors. To that end, I implement a simple strategy, each day during the tradeoffs between staff we relay any and all important details that happened during our shift, this helps with keeping everyone on the same page and I and my other staff continue to add to and maintain our readily-accessible guidebook so that future staff have an even easier time learning the ropes.

I also completed onboarding and training for two new staff members who started at the end of August.

Sales

Brief Summary: Over this period, we've had to adapt to the loss of one of our big sellers, Monsters, being on back order for a considerable portion of the time starting during the summer and we've able mostly overcome this loss by introducing a variety of new products, not just pop flavors, but also new snacks chips and ice creams that helped to increase traffic and we continue to add new products even today.

Also, to increase sales a bit better we've just begun at the time of this report to look closer at our products and isolate ones that have been kept for a long time but don't sell as well as they used to and in doing so we've been able to find better substitutes that interest more of our students.

Support of Other Services

Brief Summary: We continue to accept and display posters on our desk to help promote the events held by our services here in the Students' Union, such as a variety of food security events. The events section we implemented for our board on the front of the Hub has seen lots of use by all departments of the union, especially for events that run long-term.

Furthermore, as planned, we were set up to be one of many voting sites for students. This year's Fall elections went well at the Hub, and we saw a fair amount of traffic from students during voting.

Final Note

As a service for students and staff, I am always interested in hearing the ideas and suggestions of all who visit us. If you have any suggestions or ideas for what you want to see at the hub, please feel free to contact me at suhubmanager@msvu.ca

MSVUSU Food Bank – Daniela Aguilar, Manager

(Reporting Period: May 1st, 2025 – November 6th, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Service

The MSVUSU Food Bank continues to provide essential food support to Mount Saint Vincent University students, staff, and community members experiencing food insecurity. Our student-choice model (also known as the shopping model) allows individuals to select the items that best meet their dietary, cultural, and personal needs, promoting dignity and inclusion in the food access process.

Throughout this reporting period, the Food Bank has maintained its commitment to providing nutritious and culturally relevant foods while strengthening partnerships that enhance service delivery and sustainability.

Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

MSVUSU Internal Committees:

- Food Security Services Committee

Key Programs & Initiatives

1. Back-to-School Support for Families (September 2025)

Brief Summary:

In September, we relaunched the annual Back-to-School Support Program to assist student families with children as they prepared for the new school year. In addition to regular Food Bank

services, families received backpacks and essential school supplies to ease the financial strain that often comes with back-to-school season.

Achievements:

- Distributed backpacks and school supplies (including notebooks, pencils, and markers) to student families.
- Supported student parents in balancing educational and family responsibilities.
- Strengthened engagement with families who rely on Food Bank services.

2. Thanksgiving Gift Card Program (October 2025)

Brief Summary:

To help students and families celebrate Thanksgiving with dignity and flexibility, the Food Bank distributed Walmart gift cards. This initiative enabled recipients to purchase fresh produce, proteins, and other groceries tailored to their own traditions and needs.

Achievements:

- Provided Walmart gift cards to Food Bank users for Thanksgiving celebrations.
- Empowered participants to choose food items meaningful to them and their families.
- Fostered a sense of community care during the holiday season.

3. Partnerships and Collaborations

Brief Summary:

This term, we successfully re-established our collaboration with Second Harvest, which has allowed the Food Bank to expand its network of food donors and access additional rescue food

opportunities. Additionally, new partnerships were formed with KFC and COBS Bread, both of which are committed to donating surplus food until the end of the year.

Achievements:

- Reconnected with Second Harvest to increase rescued food donations.
- Secured ongoing partnerships with KFC and COBS Bread for regular food contributions.
- Enhanced food variety and reduced waste through local business collaboration.

Conclusion

From May to November 2025, the MSVUSU Food Bank has continued to provide essential support to the MSVU community while strengthening its partnerships and expanding programming to meet evolving needs. Our initiatives, such as the Back-to-School Support Program and the distribution of Thanksgiving Gift Cards, reflect our ongoing commitment to addressing food insecurity in compassionate and empowering ways.

Looking ahead, we plan to maintain and deepen our community partnerships, continue developing volunteer engagement, and explore new strategies to improve accessibility and sustainability within our services.

“Captain Crow’s Café” MSVUSU Soup Kitchen – Joshua van Nostrand, Manager

(Reporting Period May 1, 2025 – November 7, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Service

Captain Crow’s Café provides free vegetarian meals for students, staff, and community members twice a week. Working in partnership with the MSVUSU Food Bank and the Food Security Services Committee, Captain Crow’s Café plays a key role in fighting food insecurity on campus by ensuring members of the Mount community have easy access to fresh, homemade food.

This effort is made possible by dedicated Soup Kitchen volunteers who help prepare and serve the food, all while sharing their cooking knowledge and skills. The diversity of the Captain Crow’s Café team helps facilitate meaningful cultural exchanges through food.

My position as Soup Kitchen Manager involves menu development, grocery purchasing, volunteer coordination and supervision, event support and catering, as well as promoting food sustainability on campus.

Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

MSVUSU Internal Committees

- Food Security Services Committee
- Management Committee

Programs, Projects & Initiatives

Weekly Free Food Services

Brief Summary: Provided free meal services twice a week, consisting of vegetarian dishes and snacks for MSVU students, staff, and community members. One weekly service consists of full

meals (i.e., main dish, side, and a dessert or drink). These meals comprise a variety of cultural dishes, changing week to week depending on student interest and ingredient availability/seasonality. The other weekly service consists of snack boxes (filled with veggies, pita chips, and dips) and other snacks or desserts that can be taken “to-go”.

Achievements: Regularly supported approximately 40 students, staff, and community members twice a week with diverse, nutritious food options - almost all meals included a vegan and/or gluten-free component to accommodate those with dietary restrictions. Promoted food sustainability by cooking with local, in-season produce. Mitigated food waste by utilizing excess ingredients from the Food Bank and preparing leftovers to be distributed during Food Bank services.

“A Taste of Home” Cookbook Project (May 2025 – Ongoing)

Brief Summary: “A Taste of Home” is a student-led cookbook, supported by the President’s Fund Special Projects program and overseen by Captain Crow’s Café. The goal of the project is to celebrate the Mount's rich cultural diversity by having students from all backgrounds share food knowledge through personal or family recipes. The Food Security Committee, with assistance from nutrition professor Dr. Priya Kathirvel, successfully hired a Cookbook Consultant – Mika Paul. The Cookbook Consultant role includes promoting the submission of student recipes, testing and selecting recipes, and editing the cookbook. Recipe submissions closed on September 30th, and testing is still ongoing. Two phases of testing have been running simultaneously: first, the initial test and consultation with the recipe author/submitter; second, the recipe draft conducted by volunteers to ensure reproducibility.

Achievements: While the project is still in progress, it has seen a wide variety of both cultural recipes, as well as personal creations. The testing process has yielded promising results thus far.

Collaboration with the Garden Society

Brief summary: Helped revitalize and support the Garden Society following the demolition of the MSVU Community Garden. Received a raised garden bed, on loan from the Community Garden, allowing the Soup Kitchen to grow its own herbs and produce through the late summer and early fall. The Community Garden also loaned their aeroponics system for the Soup Kitchen and Food Bank's use, allowing these services to grow fresh herbs through the winter.

Achievements: Successfully grew bell peppers, basil, marjoram, and nasturtiums, which were used in various Soup Kitchen meals and snacks. Established a strong connection with the MSVU Community Garden and Garden Society, with hopes that the Soup Kitchen can continue to grow its own produce and herbs in the years to come.

Event Support and Catering

International Education Centre – Summer Social Club Game Night (July 2025)

Planned a low-cost meal that utilized excess ingredients from the Soup Kitchen and Food Bank. Provided vegetarian poutine and desserts to around a dozen students in attendance

Mature/Transfer Student Social (September 2025)

Provided gluten-free and vegan desserts for approximately 30 people. The Soup Kitchen and its services were promoted to event attendees.

Nutrition Lab – Food Service Q&A (September 2025)

Conducted a brief presentation with Daniela Aguilar (Food Bank Manager) about campus food resources to the “Ecological Perspective of Food” class. Promoted the Soup Kitchen's services while recruiting several new volunteers.

Garden Society - Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk (September 2025)

Prepared creative and “whimsical” snacks, desserts, and drinks to match the event theme (with gluten-free and vegan options available). Food items included mushroom and pumpkin shaped sweets, as well as lemonade made with foraged plants.

International Student Society (ISS) – Diwali Celebration (October 2025)

Scaled up and extended the Soup Kitchen’s lunch service to feed over 90 people in attendance. The ISS provided Captain Crow’s Café with authentic recipes, ingredients, and extra volunteers to prepare and serve the food.

Garden Society – Pumpkin Carnival (October 2025)

Catered the event with an autumnal menu consisting of locally sourced ingredients - this included vegan pumpkin stew, caramel apples, and mulled apple cider. The event served as a fundraiser for Eating Disorders Nova Scotia and promoted campus food and wellness services. Additionally, the seeds from carved pumpkins were collected and roasted in the Soup Kitchen and used in the following week’s meal.

Political, Economic, and Philosophical Society (PEPS) – NYC Mayoral Election Viewing (November 2025)

Prepared snacks for the event, including vegan and gluten-free options, for approximately 30 attendees. Helped to promote Captain Crow’s Café to many who were unfamiliar with its services.

SOCIETY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The main responsibility of the society affairs committee is evaluating society funding requests and approving funds. The allocation of funds is decided based on the amount requested in relation to the society's event as well as the remaining budget. Another responsibility of the committee is handling internal matters that occur within a society occasionally. These matters are confidential and are handled swiftly.

MEMBERSHIP

Committee Role	Eligibility	Name
Chair	VP Student Life	Grace MacInnis
Member	Non-Executive Councillor	Koen Schielf
Member	Non-Executive Councillor	Armaan Kush (May-October)
Member	Non-Executive Councillor	Mika Paul (Current)
Member	Voting Ex-Officio	Carolyn Lewis

OVERVIEW

- Four societies have received funding from the society affairs funding committee thus far.
- With more societies having just submitted a ratification request, as well new societies being created.
- There are over 20 societies currently ratified.
- We are capping funding per society at \$400 this semester and will reevaluate in the Winter term

FUNDS PER SOCIETY

Society Name	Total Funding Received
PR/Comm society	\$140
PSYC society	\$91.41
Science Society	\$400
Cultural Studies Society	\$400
Women & Gender Society	\$300
Jack.Org	\$320
ASCD	\$136.55

Food and Nutrition Society	\$100
International Student Society	\$400
Total	\$2,287.96