

PRESIDENT – SARA ZEGARRA

(Reporting Period: May 1st, 2025– April 9th, 2026)

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
- Elections 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.

Since then, the MSVU President and I have agreed to hold monthly meetings to continue working in the best interest of students. I have also had the opportunity to connect with various members of the executive leadership team to seek advice on potential changes to our Students' Union operations.

We met with the Provost, the Registrar's Office, and the Vice-President of Student Experience to begin discussions on revising the Academic Integrity Policy. A new subcommittee under CAPP will be formed to redevelop this policy from the ground up, with meetings set to begin in May once the new team is in place.

Additionally, we met with the Director of Human Resources to review MSVU's performance evaluation processes, with the goal of understanding and applying best practices. We also connected with the IT Director to discuss approaches for improving the Students' Union election period. These conversations will help strengthen and refine our internal operations moving forward.

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. We are reviewing the final details of the documents, as I was asking for insights to our SRC members and students' leaders. The MSVU President and I have decided to sign the MOU before the arrival of the new team.

Hiring Processes

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

In this winter semester, I am participating in the hiring processes of the Rook Manager, Rook Server and Pride Centre Manager. We have taken a rigorous and thoughtful approach to hiring the most qualified candidates for these positions.

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 ensure a welcoming, inclusive, and informative start to the academic year. The same actions were repeated in the winter orientation.

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. The same actions were repeated in the winter term.

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. The same actions were repeated in the winter term.

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.

During the winter semester, I stated to CFS-NS that the MSVUSU decided not to participate in the strike convoked by CFS-NS. We decided to give the freedom to decide every student, and

we presented an Amnesty Motion in favor of the students that decided to participate in the strike during class hours.

Motion: That Senate encourages instructors to grant academic amnesty where possible, at the instructor's discretion, for students who attend the strike during March 16-21, 2026, under the conditions identified in the attachment.

The following conditions apply:

- Protections apply only to academic obligations scheduled between March 16-21, 2026;
- Amnesty applies to students participating in strike-related activities during the recognized dates;
- Students remain responsible for completing all course learning outcomes and revised requirements;
- Protections do not extend to conduct involving violence, harassment, intimidation, destruction of property, or obstruction of essential university operations, as defined in university policy;
- Students seeking accommodation shall notify affected instructors via official university email, preferably at least 24 hours in advance where reasonably possible;
- Students shall not be required to submit documentary proof of attendance at strike activities.

Food Bank Support

I am supporting the Food Bank by creating Instagram post templates and banners.

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.

During CUPE 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 informed and to represent their concerns, particularly after classes resumed. The strike created several challenges, as many students experienced stress, anxiety, and uncertainty due to its length and impact.

On December 1st, we invited President Joel Dickinson to address student concerns. During this session, students engaged directly with the President, asking questions for nearly two hours. By the end of the discussion, students had a clearer understanding of the situation and felt more informed about the steps being taken moving forward.

Committees

- **Elections Committee:** As a member of this committee, I communicated directly with the students explaining to them the importance of running elections and participating in the governance of the university. After a successful campaign we finally have a new team that will start working on the first day of May.

- **Budget Committee:** After several meetings and changes we finally approved the next year budget in the SRC meeting held on April 2nd, 2026.
- **Constitutional & Policy Planning Committee:** We are in the process of revision of the by-laws and policies.
- **Senate Executive:** We have monthly meetings to discuss the topics for Senate meetings. During this time, I had the opportunity to discuss important concerns from the students.
- **Board of Governors:** I brought to the table students concerns. The Board needed to know what the students were feeling and thinking about the different changes happening at the university.

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. We also made a strong statement in SENATE against the termination of the International Student Success Advisor; a role dedicated to attend and address the specific needs of international student population which accounts for over 16% of the university graduate and undergraduate population. We believed that decision directly undermined the 2025–2030 Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Core values of Engagement and Accountability, SEM target for achieving enrolment, and Strategic thrust (including Strategy 2.6, 3.1, 3.2) recently launched by the university. We are asking the university administration to

implement changes in the different services to ensure international students will have a successful learning opportunity at MSVU.

We are thinking of partnering with IEC to implement the survival guide that was created by them.

- **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. The addition of new members alleviated the lack of students' presence in the hearings; however, we still have conflicts with the meetings as Reps' availabilities are not considered when calling for a meeting.
- **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. We also had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Eaton about Academic Integrity. This conversation helped us gain a better understanding of how academic integrity is managed across different universities.

- **ISC:** We helped the ISC to make an Indigenous Holiday Market at Rosaria building. The market was well attended, and we had the opportunity to have foodbank donations.

PROJECTS

Standards of Excellence Project

The implementation of the Standards of Excellence project is finished. The SRC approved the following motion:

Be it resolved that the SRC approve the following MSVUSU Food Bank documents, as presented, in support of compliance with the Food Banks Canada Standards of Excellence:

- Health & Safety Manual
- MSVUSU Food Bank SOE Compliance Manual
- Repackaging Bulk Food Manual
- Volunteer Manual
- Food Bank Manager Job Description

These documents establish the operational, safety, and governance frameworks required to support accreditation and ensure the continued delivery of services in alignment with national standards.

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 had a special committee chaired by our Governance Secretary to oversee the administration of the bursary, but next year VP Graduate will be in charge.

Buddy Program

The Buddy Program did not continue past the second semester due to low engagement from new students. While the Buddies were proactive in reaching out, there was little to no response. As a result, we are exploring a new approach that aligns more closely with VP Life initiatives and activities.

Despite these challenges, we successfully hosted a Collage Night for participants in January. The event was organized by VP Life and took place at The Rook.

MSVUSU Reports

I asked my team to compile all the work completed this semester into a comprehensive report.

This document highlights the projects, initiatives, and activities we have done to support students, as well as our ongoing commitment to enhancing student experience and strengthening collaboration with the university. The summer report was presented at both the Senate and BOG.

We will use the AGM reports as a final report to give to our students.

Performance Evaluation

We are currently developing a performance evaluation for the current team.

Onboarding Documents

We are currently developing onboarding documents for the incoming team. We began by reviewing existing materials and comparing them with insights from our most recent onboarding session. I am now starting to draft a new document based on this work.

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.
- **Campus for all:** Following several incidents affecting Black students and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, we prioritized creating initiatives that reinforce our campus as a safe and inclusive space for all students. Throughout the month, we organized weekly events aimed at fostering community, support, and visibility. In the final week, we expanded our programming with additional activities held under the guidance of the Pride Centre. This month's initiatives were a collaborative effort led by the BIPOC Representative, First Year Representative, 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Mature Students Representative, VP Advocacy, and the Pride Centre.
- **Letter Writing Workshop:** The PEPS Society organized a workshop designed to help students effectively write letters expressing their concerns and disagreements to various government representatives.

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.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

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

(Reporting period: May 01 – April 30, 2025)

Summary of Role:

The position of Vice President, Research & Graduate Student Affairs serves as an Executive of the Students Union, advancing the academic, professional, and welfare interests of graduate and research students. The role focuses on program development, advocacy, institutional collaboration, and strengthening graduate student experience.

Key duties:

- Supporting graduate student success, including supervision relationship and advocacy
- Advising the Executive Committee and Student's Representative Council
- Leading graduate focused programs, services, and policy engagement
- Building institutional and external partnerships to enhance student support

Other Strategic duties/priorities:

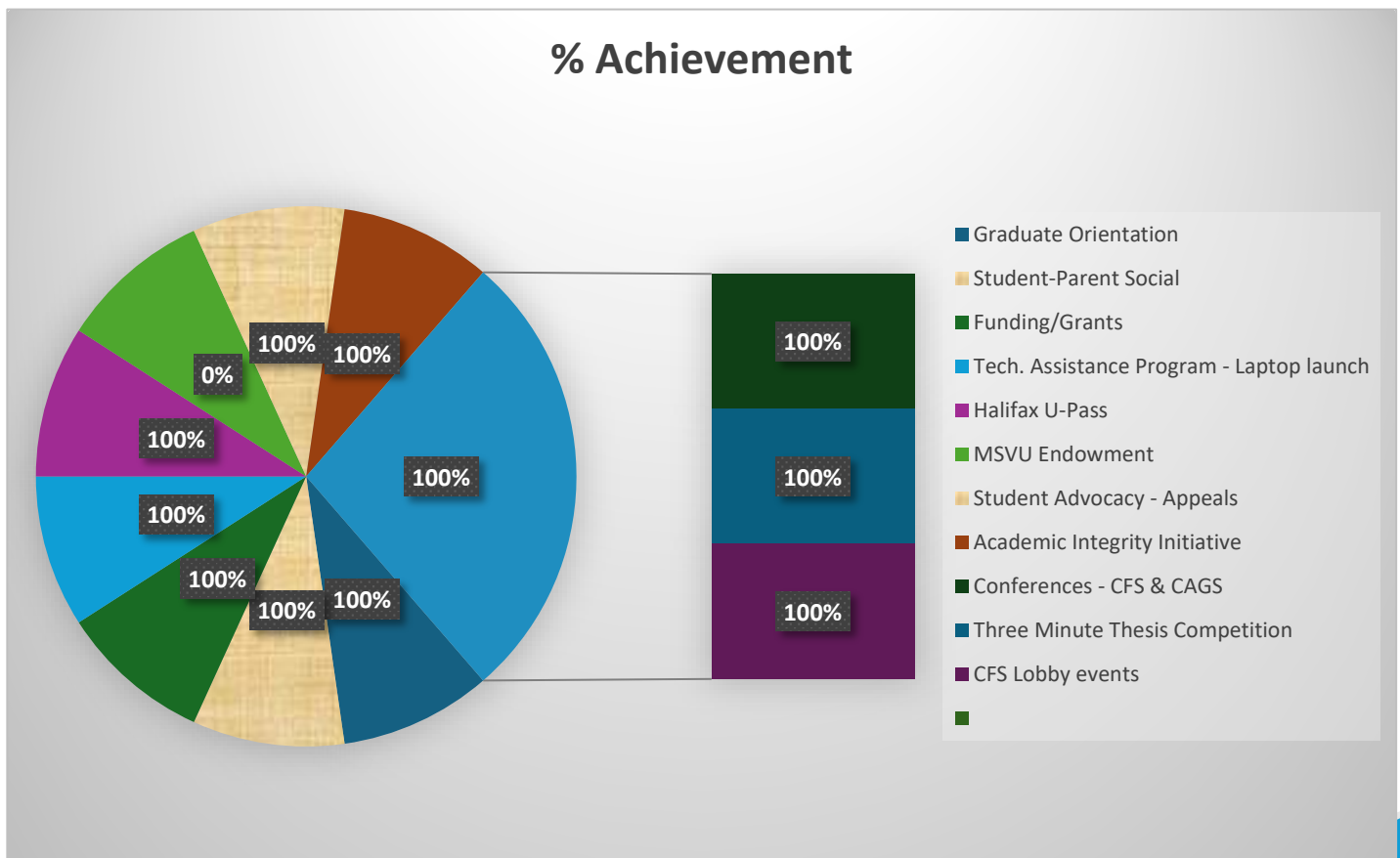
- Plan and execute orientation week planning committee meetings and orientation events
- Address academic issues within the graduate and research student communities
- Promote a culture of academic integrity on campus, particularly amongst graduate and research students
- Establish collaborations with 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), and 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 (CFS) 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 events as appropriate.
- Attend and actively participate in the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS)

Committee Representation:

- Senate & Senate Student Caucus – Senator
- Graduate Students Committee – Chair
- Graduate Studies Program & Policy Committee (GSPPC) – Member/Student representative
- Committee on Academic and Policy Planning (CAPP) – Member
- Orientation Committee (Planning & Large) – Member
- Library & Archives Committee/SCOLA – Member

Summary of Projects



1. Project Title/Theme: Fall (2025) 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.

Objective: Facilitate transition and integration of incoming graduate students

Achievement/Outcome:

- Strengthened early engagement with academic faculty and administrative support services
- Successfully delivered hybrid orientation on Wednesday September 3, 2025
- 471 graduate students enrolled; 105 responded to pre-attendance survey; 38 confirmed in-person attendance

2. Project Title/Theme: Student Parent Social (2025)

- **Brief Summary:** This event was a social networking gathering of graduate students with children. It was aimed at building connections and was done in partnership with the Fountain Play Center. 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 back-to-school items for the children.

Objective: Foster inclusion and community among graduate student parents.

Achievement/Outcome:

- Engaged 10-12 families and about 35 children
- Enhanced visibility of student-parent needs within campus programs
- Sensitization about the services of the Fountain Play Center

- Back-to-school gift items for the children.

3. Project Title/Theme: Funding & External Partnerships (2025)

Brief Summary: This was aimed at building external partnerships with internal and external partners, such as RBC Atlantic Newcomer Specialist team.

Objective: Secure financial and institutional support for students

Achievement/Outcome:

- \$6,000 grant secured from RBC for the MSVU Food Bank
- \$1,765 sponsorship secured to attend the CAGS conference
- Initiated additional collaborations such as setting up a banking kiosk on campus and technology support

4. 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.

Objective: Establish long-term financial sustainability for student support programs.

Achievement/Progress to-Date:

- Executive proposal submitted to the Advancement team. Follow-up ongoing, but inconclusive.

Next Steps:

- Discussion ongoing for the constitution of a Funding unit of the Students union.
- Strategies for fundraising to be discussed with the incoming VP
- Targeted funding goal - between **\$1m - \$2m** on/before the end of 2026-2027 term.

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), Mount Saint Vincent University, 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 (1.0 unit course or less), students enrolled in summer courses, students with disabilities, students on co-op etc. These 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.

Objective: Expand equitable access to transit for underserved student groups.

Achievement/Progress to-Date:

- Initiated discussions for eligibility expansion (meeting held in November, 2025).
- Request for re-evaluation of the full-time requirement, expanding eligibility to students with academic or professional experiences within HRM, regardless of course load.
- Advocating for opt-in/opt-out model and broader inclusion criteria

Next Step:

- Position for review during upcoming Memorandum of Understanding renewal and referendum

6. Project Title/Theme: Technology Assistance Program (TAP, 2026)

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.

Objective: Address digital inequities among students

Achievement/Outcome:

- Thirty-five (35) laptops secured through donations (MacBooks, Hp laptops, and Dell laptop) - Three (3) MacBooks were given out to support students within the Students Union.
- Software partnership secured with Faronics at almost 50% discount; Microsoft Office for students donated by Geo Nova Scotia.
- The Laptop Loan Scheme officially launched on April 1, 2026.

Next Steps:

- Expand partnerships (Hp Foundation, RBC Technology etc.)
- Develop procurement and fundraising strategy IT services

7. Project Title/Theme: Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition (2026)

Brief Summary: The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is an internationally recognized academic competition that challenges graduate students to present their research in a clear, engaging, and compelling way in three minutes using one static slide. This year, the eligibility criteria for the competition has been expanded beyond thesis-based graduate students to include non-thesis graduate students, postdocs, undergraduate research students, and visiting students. At the university level, the competition was held on April 7, from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Seton 407/409. Selected winners received financial prizes and advanced to the Eastern Regional competition scheduled for June 5 at Saint Mary's University. All participants received a 3MT and MSVU branded Certificate of Recognition from the university. This event is one of the outcomes of my attendance at the CAGS Conference in November 2025.

Objective: Promote research communication and interdisciplinary engagement

Achievement/Outcome:

- Successfully delivered university-wide competition (April 7, 2026)
- Ten (10) registered participants

- Strengthened collaboration with Faculty of Graduate Studies.

8. Project Title/Theme: Student Advocacy – Academic Appeals

Brief Summary: Student advocacy is one of the core goals of the office, and remains an ongoing process.

Objective: Provide high-level academic advocacy and support to students

Achievement/Progress to-Date:

- Supported four (4) complex academic cases, including academic suspension and dismissal
- All issues were of high importance as they involved international students.
- 100% success rate was recorded – all appeals upheld and penalties reversed.

9. 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.

Objective: Promote academic integrity through awareness and education

Achievement/Progress to-Date:

- Developed concept and content framework for video campaign
- Pending institutional approval
- Implementation timeline – Fall 2026

10. Project Title/Theme: National Representation & Conferences

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. 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. I also represented the Graduate students and Black students at various CFS Graduate and Black caucus standalones.

Achievement/Progress to-Date:

- Student representation at the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) National General Meeting in Toronto (2025) - Conference focused on issues around national student policy, collective advocacy, governance, and strategies to advance the rights and needs of member locals in Canada.

- Graduate student representation at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference in Ottawa (2025). - Conference focused on the theme: “Graduate Education as a Public Good: Leadership, Advocacy, and Impact.”.
- Student representation at the CFS National Graduate Caucus standalone (2026) and the Black Student Caucus standalone event (2026).

Outcome:

- Advanced MSVUSU’s participation in national policy and advocacy discussions
- Knowledge mobilization leading to the revival of the 3MT event

11. Project Title/Theme: CFS Lobby events (2025-2026)

Brief Summary: CFS National and Provincial lobby events are intended to actively engage with Senators, Members of Parliament (MP’s), Ministers, and Members of Assemblies (MLA’s) at the National and Provincial levels. Between 2025 and 2026, I actively participated in the lobby week, meeting with Senators and MPs at the national level. At the provincial level, I actively engaged in meetings with Ministers and MLAs.

Objective: Advance student interest through coordinated national and provincial advocacy

Achievement/Outcome:

- Strengthened MSVUSU’s presence in national and provincial spaces
- Contributed to policy dialogue on student issues, such as housing, tuition, immigration, funding, accessibility
- Enhanced institutional visibility and strategic relationships with policymakers

12. Participation in Cross-Functional Projects

Brief Summary: Actively contributed to cross-portfolio initiatives, strengthening operational effectiveness and governance within MSVUSU.

A few contributions:

- **Academic Appeals:** Collaborated with VP-Advocacy on complex student cases
- **Contractual Oversight:** Collaborated with the Strategic Operations Manager on review of contractual

agreements between MSVUSU & Minnikin, and Nimbus Learning

- **Executive Governance:** Contributed to Constitution review; Hiring processes (Fountain Play Center Operations & Program Managers), Budget review and financial planning; Strike-related dialogues and student representation; Strategic engagement with university leadership
- **Operational Support:** Provided ongoing executive-level advisory and ancillary support across portfolios

Overall Impact: Across the reporting period, the Office of the VP, Research & Graduate Students Affairs achieved measurable progress in:

- Enhancing graduate student engagement and inclusion
- Expanding access to financial, technological, and academic supports
- Strengthening institutional and external partnerships
- Advancing advocacy at institutional and national levels
- Building sustainable, long-term initiatives
- Strengthened governance, accountability, and operational coherence
- Improved interdepartmental collaboration
- Enhanced responsiveness to institutional and student needs

Respectfully,

Orinari Francis Wokoma

VP-Research & Graduate Students' Affairs
Mount Saint Vincent University Students Union

Vice President of Advocacy and Undergraduate Student Affairs – Meghna Minocha

(Reporting Period: May 1st, 2025 – April 3rd, 2026)

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

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

A Holistic Approach to Academic Integrity, Kwantlen Polytechnic University,

www.kpu.ca/academicintegrity/faculty/a-holistic-approach.

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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/>.

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Sopcak, Paul, and Kevin Hood. “Building a Culture of Restorative Practice and Restorative Responses to Academic Misconduct.” *Ethics and Integrity in Educational Contexts*, 3 Mar. 2022, pp. 553–571, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-83255-1_29.

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

Academic Appeals Policy Review Committee

- Discussion with Sara Zegarra (SU President), Daniya Younes (Harassment and Discrimination Advisor), Lori Paul (Indigenous Student Representative), Kinu Project, and a Student at Large regarding how to move forward with starting the review and update process for MSVU’s current Academic Appeals Policy and Procedures.

- Meetings with Daniya Younes to develop an Academic Appeals and Integrity Workshop and Academic Appeals Student Survey, with help from Diana Hazelton (VP Communications)
- The Academic Appeals and Integrity Workshop had to be cancelled/ moved to an online medium.
- However, Sara Zegarra, Mika Paul (Transfer Student Representative), and I had a meeting with Dr. Lori Francis (VP Academic and Provost), Stephanie Hale (Registrar), and Keltie Jones (Associate VP Student Experience) to discuss and initiate the formation of an Academic Appeals Policy Review Sub-Committee which will consist of 3 Student Representative positions and members from SCOTL, Administration, CAPP, etc.
- Leila Sobey-Skinner (2SLGBTQIA+ Representative), Mika Paul, Sara Zegarra, and I had another meeting with Dr. Sara Elaine Eaton (Werklund Research Professor) and Emily Ballantyne to discuss and get feedback on how to improve our Academic Appeals Policy and Procedures, especially around Generative A.I.
- The Committee should form and begin meeting towards the end of May this year.

Sexual Health Week

Contributors:

Julianna Fanning (Gender Advocacy Representative)

Leila Sobey-Skinner (2SLGBTQIA+ Representative)

Ayden Penney (Pride Center Manager)

Mika Paul (Transfer Student Representative)

Diana Hazelton (VP Communications)

Grace Macinnis (VP Student Life)

Rachele Manett (Venus Envy)

- Aim:** Spread awareness about hygiene, pleasure, protection, and consent.
- Purpose:** Encourage conversations around sexual health and teach students about sexual health.
- Process:**
 1. Reach out to partnerships and collaboration organizations, alumni, different University departments, faculty, and administration
 2. Organize workshops, seminars, gift bags, educational brochures, and interactive activities
 3. Encourage faculty, administration, and staff to participate
 4. Invite faculty and researchers to share their work on sexual health – student research assistantship opportunities
 5. Sexual Health Ambassadors (student volunteer opportunities/ CCR)
 6. Interactive Art Installation (for self-expression)
 7. Waves of Change
 8. Sex Toy Bingo

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: March 16-20th

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

Improvements:

Indigenous Student Centre and Counselling Services (consult earlier), Sexual Health Nova Scotia, community partners, talking to AMI, mental health, library resources (books), working with other SUs, Sam Le Nobel/ Women Studies Society

SEXUAL HEALTH WEEK LAYOUT (DRAFT)

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

Events/ Activities

- Sex Toy Bingo
- STI Clinic Day
- Educational Panel
- Ask Me Anything (panel or anonymous form/question box)
- Consent and Mental and Sexual Health
- 2SLBTQIA+ & Disability Panel/ Info event
- Waves of Change
- Sexual Health Ambassadors
- Culturally Inclusive Sexual Health Awareness

TENTATIVE EVENTS AND SCHEDULE:

(Not Final)

MONDAY		2SLGBTQIA+ Panel (1pm - 2:30pm) McCain 106		
TUESDAY	STI Clinic (TBD)	Culturally Inclusive Sex Talk (1:30pm -		

		2:30pm) McCain 105		
WEDNESDAY	Waves of Change (2:30pm) McCain 302	Consent and Mental Health (TBD)		
THURSDAY	Sex Toy Bingo (TBD)	Fanfic and Erotica (5:30pm – 7:30pm) Seton 407	Disability Panel (3pm - 5pm) Seton 553	
FRIDAY	Educational Panel – Ask Me Anything (anytime after 11:30am)			

EDUCATIONAL PANEL – POTENTIAL TOPICS AND QUESTIONS (cancelled)

1. What are some things women and the queer community should be aware of in terms of autonomy and rights in Canada?
2. How can we advocate for communities and their rights regarding sexual health and expression?
3. What is “kink” and how does one safely practice it?
4. What is the difference between sexual and romantic orientation?
5. How do you know if the sex you are having is healthy or right for you?
6. What are situations in which consent is often supposed to be practiced but commonly isn't?
7. What is non-monogamy and what does healthy non-monogamy look like?
8. What is the difference between an STI and other infections?
9. What role does body image play in our sexual health? What can we do to prevent negative perceptions of our own body image?
10. What kinds of sexual health and queer-oriented services are available in Halifax?
11. Any topic of interest

CULTURALLY INCLUSIVE SEX TALK (cancelled)

1.	Culture, Consent and Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is consent? What is comfortable for you?• Is it okay to say no? How to say no?• Taking cultural background into account when it comes to safe sexual practices• Mental and Sexual Wellbeing
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What feels good for YOU and what doesn't? • Do you consider/ respect culture and comfort during sexual practices?
2.	Contraceptives + Kits + Harm Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is contraception? Why should you use contraception? • What are STIs? How can you use self-testing kits? • Why should you be careful during sexual practices?
3.	Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is sexual violence? • Who can you reach out to when you are not safe/ have been violated? • Do you have someone you can reach out to in the case of danger/ an emergency? • Different kinds of sexual violence • How to identify sexual violence
4.	Diversity in Gender and Sexual Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did you know about diverse genders and sexual orientations? • How can you explore gender and sexual diversity? • What is gender neutral language?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the specific health needs of gender and sexual minorities?
5.	Sexual Rights and Autonomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing the right to make choices about one's own body, reproductive health (contraception, pregnancy), and sexual life, free from coercion and stigma
6.	Resources and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Office + Clinic • Harassment and Discrimination Advisor • Counselling Services • Peer Support • Security • Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team • Good2Talk • Avalon Sexual Assault Centre • Nova Scotia Information and Referral Service (24/7) • Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner • Halifax Sexual Health Centre • AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia • Nova Scotia Women's Choice Clinic • Bryony House • Adsum House

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 211 Nova Scotia
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Setbacks:

- The event was organized, based on availability, during the week of the strike and during the vacation week of most staff and administrators, so there was not much turn out and some events had to be cancelled. There was also a weather issue on the Monday of that week which led to the postponement and ultimate cancellation of said event.
- There were also some scheduling issues.

Senate Motions

- Worked with Sara Zegarra, Lori Paul, and Paula Crouse (Senate Secretary) on the following motions: (1) Indigenous Student Representative Seat on Senate, and (2) Academic Appeals Policy Review.
- We will bring forward the Indigenous Student Representative motion at the Senate meeting scheduled for April, and we will not be bringing forward the Academic Appeals Policy Review motion due to the expected formation of the Academic Appeals Policy Review Sub-Committee

Indigenous Student Representative Seat on Senate:

MEMORANDUM

To: Prof. Paula Crouse, Senate Secretary

From: Lori Paul, Indigenous Student Representative

Date: 11th March 2026

Subject: Agenda Item for April 2026 Senate: Establishment of the Indigenous Student Representative Position as a permanent Student Senator Member on Senate

Please add the following documents to the upcoming Senate agenda regarding the establishment of a permanent Indigenous Student Representative position on Senate:

- Proposed By-Law changes
- Rationale for the Following Motion

Motions

MOVE THAT the Senate approve the establishment of a permanent Indigenous Student Representative seat on Senate.

1. Membership

1.1 The Senate consists of the following as voting members:

Ex officio members:

- the President, who shall be chair
- the Vice-President Academic and Provost of the University
- the Vice-President (Administration) of the University
- the Dean, Arts and Science
- the Dean, Professional Studies
- the Dean, Education
- the University Librarian
- the Registrar
- the Director of Teaching and Learning
- the Associate Vice-President (Research)
- the Associate Vice-President Student Experience
- the Faculty Association President
- Mi'kmaq member of MSVU L'nu Advisory Circle

Elected members:

- twenty members of the Eligible Faculty Complement elected by the Faculty Complement of Mount Saint Vincent University, two of whom must be from the humanities, one from the sciences, two from the social sciences, three from the professional areas, three from education and nine members at large.
- ~~six~~ seven students, usually comprising the President, the Indigenous Student Representative and five members of the Student Representative Council according to Mount Saint Vincent University Students' Union policy

Definitions:

Faculty Complement: All tenured, probationary, permanent and term members of faculty and librarians and full-time laboratory instructors excluding those holding administrative appointments with ex officio membership on Senate or any of its standing committees.

Eligible Faculty Complement: All tenured, probationary, and permanent members of faculty, librarians, and full-time laboratory instructors excluding those holding administrative appointments with ex officio membership on Senate or any of its standing committees.

1.2 The following shall be a non-voting member of Senate: The Secretary of Senate.

1.2.1 Non-voting members may attend Open and Closed Meetings, present reports, and may fully participate in the deliberations of Senate. Non-voting members of Senate may not move, second, or vote on any Motion.

RATIONALE FOR THE MOTION

Mount Saint Vincent University has made public commitments to advancing Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility as well as to supporting meaningful Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. These commitments emphasize the importance of inclusive governance structures, respectful engagement with Indigenous communities, and the recognition of Indigenous knowledge systems.

Establishing an Indigenous Student Representative on Senate would operationalize these commitments by ensuring that Indigenous voices are meaningfully included in academic governance processes.

Such representation would support institutional efforts to examine and transform policies, curricula, and governance structures in ways that reflect the diversity of knowledge systems and lived experiences within the university community.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Calls to Action highlight the responsibility of educational institutions to actively contribute to reconciliation. Several Calls to Action emphasize the need for increased Indigenous representation and the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous perspectives within education systems.

Creating a permanent Indigenous Student Representative position on Senate represents a concrete step toward implementing these Calls to Action within the governance structures of Mount Saint Vincent University. It ensures that Indigenous perspectives are present when academic policies, curricula, and institutional priorities are discussed and developed.

Indigenous representation at Mount Saint Vincent University must extend beyond symbolic inclusion and work toward transforming institutional structures. Establishing an Indigenous Student Representative on Senate is an important step toward ensuring meaningful Reconciliation, systemic change, and governance that genuinely includes Indigenous perspectives and respects Indigenous rights and knowledge systems.

The traditional colonial model of higher education has historically marginalized many Indigenous peoples and ways of knowing. Efforts to decolonize the institution therefore require structural change within governance bodies where academic policies and institutional priorities are determined. An Indigenous representative on Senate can help ensure that Indigenous worldviews, knowledge systems, and systems of governance are considered in these processes, moving the university beyond symbolic inclusion toward substantive change.

Indigenous students often face academic, social, and emotional barriers within post-secondary institutions. A dedicated representative can advocate for cultural support, improve student success and retention, and help ensure that Indigenous students are able to thrive within the university environment. Acting as a liaison between students, administration, and governance bodies, this role would ensure that Indigenous concerns are consistently represented and addressed within institutional decision-making.

An Indigenous representative also helps bridge Western academic knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing through the principle of Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing). This approach recognizes the strengths of both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems and encourages their respectful coexistence within teaching, research, and governance. Through this perspective, the university can further support traditional knowledge, land-based learning, and oral histories within academic contexts.

Finally, establishing this position strengthens the university's commitment to inclusive governance. Representation within Senate ensures that Indigenous students are not only consulted but are active participants in shaping the academic policies that affect their education and experiences. By embedding Indigenous representation within its governance structures, Mount Saint Vincent University can take a meaningful step toward reconciliation while fostering a more inclusive, respectful, and intellectually diverse academic community.

Academic Appeals Policy Review:

MEMORANDUM

To: Prof. Paula Crouse, Senate Secretary

From: Meghna Minocha, Vice President of Advocacy and Undergraduate Affairs

Date: 11th March 2026

Subject: Agenda Item for March 2026 Senate: That Senate establish a structured review of the Academic Appeals Policy and its related procedures, with the goal of improving fairness, transparency, and student wellbeing, and that this review meaningfully incorporates student experience data and equity-informed perspectives.

Please add the following documents to the upcoming Senate agenda:

- Summary of the Proposal to Establish a structured review of the academic appeals policy
- Rationale for the Motion (Student Survey)

Motions

MOVE THAT the Senate establish a structured review of the Academic Appeals Policy and its related procedures, with the goal of improving fairness, transparency, and student wellbeing, and that this review meaningfully incorporate student experience data and equity-informed perspectives.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

This proposal recommends the establishment of a structured review of the Academic Appeals Policy and its related procedures, with the goal of improving fairness, transparency, and student wellbeing, and that this review meaningfully incorporate student experience data and equity-informed perspectives.

The Student Union has received ongoing feedback from students regarding significant challenges within the current Academic Appeals process. These challenges include concerns related to procedural fairness, transparency, bias/conflict of interest, the impacts of power dynamics, cultural and accessibility barriers, and the psychological safety of students navigating the system.

To better understand the scope and nature of these issues, the Student Union is currently conducting two initiatives:

A campus-wide student survey assessing:

Students' experiences navigating the Academic Appeals process

Perceptions of procedural fairness

Whether students felt heard and respected

Whether equity-seeking students experienced disproportionate barriers

Impacts on wellbeing and psychological safety

A Town Hall (scheduled for March 26, 2026) to collect qualitative insights and lived experiences from students directly affected by the Academic Appeals system.

Although the results of these consultations will not be available before the motion submission, preliminary feedback gathered by the Student Union over recent years indicates that many students experience harmful impacts and perceive the system as inequitable and unclear.

Given these urgent concerns, and in anticipation of the forthcoming survey and Town Hall data, Senate action is needed to initiate a formal review.

RATIONALE FOR THE MOTION

The Student Union has received ongoing feedback from students regarding significant challenges within the current Academic Appeals process. These challenges include concerns related to procedural fairness, transparency, bias/conflict of interest, the impacts of power dynamics, cultural and accessibility barriers, and the psychological safety of students navigating the system.

This motion is for Senate to direct the appropriate committee(s) to undertake a comprehensive review of the Academic Appeals Policy and associated procedures, to explicitly examine the following areas:

1. Strengthening Student Representation

Increase the role and voice of students on Academic Appeal committees.

2. Integrating Equity-Focused Participation

Include representation from Student Equity Offices such as:

Accessibility Services

Indigenous Student Centre

Black Student Support Office

International Education Centre

Pride Centre

3. Embedding Restorative Approaches

Explore restorative practices (e.g., facilitated dialogue, circles) in applicable stages of the appeal process.

4. Clarifying Policy and Procedure

Improve clarity and transparency around definitions, expectations, timelines, evidence requirements, and decision-making standards.

5. Enhancing Training for Committee Members

Mandatory training in:

Cultural competency (including Indigenous perspectives)

Anti-ableism

Bias awareness

Trauma-informed and psychologically safe adjudication practices

6. Shifting Toward Educational Outcomes

Consider community-based or educational outcomes rather than primarily punitive measures

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.
- I had meetings with Carolyn Lewis (Strategic Operations Manager) to discuss how to proceed with creating a network, and we decided that creating a committee for this would be better for outreach, especially in the long-term.

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.
- The committee will also help with this, and many more things related to outreach and external support for students!

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.

Participation in Cross-Functional Projects

Campus for All

Funding and Donations:

- Venus Envy – Up to \$100 worth of in-kind books and pride materials.
- Transformation Closet - Free gender-affirming gear and resources.



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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: This year, we had 28 societies ratified with the MSVUSU. 18 were societies previously ratified with us, and 10 societies were brand new. With the help of our SM&CC coordinator, we created a society highlight post, which received over 5000 views.

Social Media: Between January 8th and April 3rd, @msvusu has received over 228 000 views. This includes stories, posts, reels, and livestreams. We reached nearly 15k accounts, a staggering 55.8% increase from the previous 90 days. Some of our top posts with over 5k views each were: Student Cookbook call for recipes, Rook Hiring post, Meet the Candidates for Fall-by Election (12.4k), Mi'kmaq History Month, Housing Bursary, PAWS Room, Mocktail making comp, Strike Survey, 12 days of

giveaways (10.6k), Silent Disco, Spring 2026 Hiring, societies you should know about, student strike position statement, Meet the Candidates for General Election (18k combined), and election results (8k). Since May 1st, we have gained 283 followers.

Newsletter: Since May 1st, I have sent 37 newsletters/special emails. The average open rate is 30.3%, with the lowest being 12.6% and the highest being 63.6% (faculty strike feedback form). I have created an SU Spotlight section, as well as a society section. These areas highlight some of the special events/opportunities happening on campus.

Website: This year, many adjustments have been made to the website. The biggest revision was to the 'Jobs' section, which was redone for this year's hiring process. A new page for TAP was created. Msvusu.ca receives an average of 1200 monthly visitors and experienced a spike during February when we were hiring.

Elections: My role within the elections process has included sitting on the Elections Committee, filming promo videos with current SRC members to advertise elections, taking candidate headshots, assisting with the Meet the Candidates post, making the Meet the Candidates newsletter, live-streaming the Elections Social and the Election Results Livestream, as well as the Election Results newsletter.

Hiring: This year, in the absence of our Admin Assistant, I had a more integral role in the hiring process. I made the hiring page on our website, made application forms, organized the forms into candidate sheets for the committees to review, served on three hiring committees, and answered all general inquiries. Thank you to the SOM for the help and support with this process!

Other Projects/Initiatives: There are many other projects that I've had the joy of being involved with. The 3MT competition, TAP, Academic Appeals Survey, PAWS Room, 2016 throwback party, Sexual

Health Week, A Campus for All Campaign, Student Strike communications, Grad Photos, Faculty Strike Communication, SAGM & AGM planning, Strike Feedback Form, and other projects as mentioned in my SAGM Report.

Digitized Old Photos: Over the past months, I've been working to digitize old photos from the MSVUSU archive. Photos from 2003-2018 have been digitized, with over 1000 photos completed. There are still lots to go, and I'm excited to keep working on these this coming summer, as well as finding fun ways to share these photos with our students and community!



msvusu

Mount Saint Vincent University
Students' Union | msvusu.ca

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.

Project Title/Theme *Polaroid Frame Decorating*

Brief Summary: This event will be a craft event, where students can use puffy air-dry paint to add fun patterns and decals to polaroid picture frames, which they can take home and add their won pictures to.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event was delayed, as it was originally planned to be held for valentine's day but was then held in march due to conflicts. There were 50 frames available, and all were taken home by students, indicating a good turnout.

Project Title/Theme *2016 Themed Dance*

Brief Summary: This event will be a fun themed dance, where music from 2016 will be played, and the decorations will match the theme. This is currently a popular trend, and made sense for this year to be the theme.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event took place in March, and was overall a success, there was people there until the event ended, with people dancing and dressing up to the theme.

Project Title/Theme *Social Dance*

Brief Summary: This event was planned by SRC members, where students could come and learn new dances like the Salsa, and Samba. I contributed by purchasing snacks for the students attending and gifts for the instructors. I was also just at the event in case any help was needed.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event had great turn out, there was lots of students engaged and trying the dances. At some points there wasn't much space for new people joining.

Project Title/Theme *Collage Night*

Brief Summary: This event was a winter orientation event that invited students to come and create art by cutting up old books and magazines.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event is always a hit, and students often come and go throughout the event, turn out was good overall, and students seem to really enjoy this activity.

Project Title/Theme *12 Days of Giveaways*

Brief Summary: This event was a giveaway for Christmas, that anyone could enter, there were 12 prizes total, and each day a student name was draw from the Instagram entries, and was allowed to choose a prize.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event was great, we received a lot of engagement on the post, receiving over 600 comments/entries to the giveaway.

Vice President Student Life Report – Grace MacInnis

Project Title/Theme *Stim Toy Bingo*

Brief Summary: This event was for the winter orientation, this was planned to be a calm, and stress-free event. By playing bingo and winning through different patterns, the students could win stim toys.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event had low turn out however that could be due to it being held late in the month, and students getting busy with classes. Overall, the students who attended seemed to enjoy themselves and is always a good event.

Project Title/Theme *Trivia Night*

Brief Summary: This event was for the winter orientation and was a simple trivia night, with general topics and prizes for the winning team.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event was as expected, and turn out was minimal, as it was also later in the month of January, I suspect students were getting busy with classes.

Upcoming events

Project Title/Theme *Last class bash/event*

Brief Summary: This event will be the final event for the year 2025/2026, and my final event at VP Student life. I am unsure what this event will look like, but will be some kind of celebration to end the year.

Achievement/Progress to Date: Planning for this event is in the early stages, as I plan to work with the incoming VP Student Life to organize this event, allowing them the opportunity to plan an event before coming into the role.

Project Title/Theme *Coffee and Study*

Brief Summary: This event was hosted during exams in the fall semester, and I hope to have it again during winter exams. This event is just a free coffee bar with snacks and a quiet place to study.

Achievement/Progress to Date: Again, planning for this event is minimal, as I will also be using this event as a way to help train and onboard the incoming VP Student Life.



***CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER REPORT***

By: Nola A. Sam

**Mount Saint
Vincent University
Students' Union
(MSVUSU)**

**Annual General Meeting
– Spring 2026**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past fiscal period, the MSVUSU has maintained a stable and responsible financial position, guided by transparency, strengthened internal controls, and a continued focus on supporting student needs. Financial resources have been directed toward core student services, including society funding, campus programming, Fountain Play Centre, the campus Pub, the campus Hub, Food Bank, Weekly Soup Kitchen, and Pride Centre. We have successfully finalized the audited financial statements for the 2023/24 fiscal year, which will be made publicly available. Work is currently underway to finalize the 2024/25 audit, supported by improved documentation and reconciliation processes.

As we move forward, the focus remains on strengthening financial systems, enhancing reporting practices, and ensuring long-term sustainability through the implementation of the 2026/27 fiscal budget.

ORGANIZATIONAL FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Student Union's financial structure continues to support both operational requirements and student-focused initiatives.

The 2026/27 proposed budget, included with this report, reflects continued investment in student services and supports, stable funding for societies and programming, ongoing commitment to equity-based initiatives, and responsible administrative and operational planning.

The budget projects revenues of approximately \$893,700 and expenses of \$894,200, resulting in a planned deficit of approximately \$465. It is important to note that a significant portion of our revenue is derived from general membership fees, which are tied to student enrollment and therefore remain variable. As a result, the budget has been developed using conservative assumptions to account for potential fluctuations.

This minimal, planned deficit reflects continued investment in essential student services while responding to rising operational costs, and will be covered through existing reserves. Overall, the Student Union remains in a stable financial position.

Budget development has been guided by historical trends, current financial performance, and anticipated student needs, ensuring alignment with organizational priorities.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Financial performance for the period remained consistent with expectations.

Revenue streams included student union fees, service department operations, and donations. Expenditures aligned with approved priorities, including staffing, honoraria, programming, and service delivery. Budget-to-actual results indicate overall alignment, with minor variances primarily due to timing differences and operational fluctuations

AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE UPDATE

The 2023/24 fiscal year-end audit has been completed and finalized, with audited financial statements prepared for presentation and public release.

Work is currently underway on the 2024/25 fiscal year-end audit, with all required documentation and reconciliations substantially prepared. Improvements in internal controls and record-keeping throughout the year have strengthened audit readiness and are expected to support a more efficient audit process.

All financial activities continue to comply with:

- ASNPO standards
- CRA requirements

There are no identified compliance issues at this time.

The organization maintains a moderate and stable financial position, with sufficient cash flow to meet current and upcoming commitments.

COMMITTEES AND GOVERNANCE REPRESENTATION

Internal Committees:

- Pay and Honoraria Committee – Chair
- Compensation Review Committee – Chair
- Budgeting Committee – Co-Chair
- Executive Committee – Ex-Officio

External Representation:

- Board of Governors
 - University Budget Advisory Committee
 - University Finance Committee
- Campus Trust
 - Board of Trustees
 - Finance Committee
- Canadian Federation of Students
 - National & Provincial Budget Committees
 - Provincial Executive Committee
 - NS Racialized Student Representative

These roles continue to strengthen MSVUSU's presence in financial governance and advocacy spaces.

CHALLENGES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Several operational challenges were addressed during the year:

- Inventory tracking inconsistencies were resolved through the implementation of a redesigned system, improving accuracy and audit readiness
- A temporary POS disruption (Square) required manual controls, reinforcing the need for contingency planning
- External pressures such as rising food costs and increased demand for student supports required adaptive financial management

In response, the finance office strengthened:

- Internal controls
- Documentation processes
- Departmental communication
- Risk mitigation strategies

LOOKING AHEAD / NEXT STEPS


Key priorities moving forward include:

- Implementation and monitoring of the 2026/27 approved budget
- Continued enhancement of internal controls and financial reporting systems
- Strengthening collaboration with university finance and stakeholders
- Improving financial transparency and accessibility for students and societies

These efforts will support long-term sustainability and ensure that financial resources continue to effectively serve the student body.

APPENDICES

- 2026/27 Approved Budget
- Financial Statements
- Food Security Reports



Nola A. Sam
Chief Financial Officer

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
2026-27 FISCAL BUDGET
 (Approved by SRC)

GL Number	Line Item/Account Name	2025-2026			2026-2027			
		Actual	(May	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
		25 - Mar 26	Unaudited					
4010	General Membership Fees	698,698.07	651,662.98	47,035.09	708,173.55	708,173.55		
4020	Orientation Fees	22,750.00	19,250.00	3,500.00	19,250.00	19,250.00		
4035	CFS Fees Collected	66,169.20	61,373.40	4,795.80	65,613.74	65,613.74		
4015	Food Security	37,320.98	42,500.00	(5,179.02)	42,900.00	42,900.00		
4060	Health Plan (Campus Trust)	-	-	-	-	-		
4065	Health Plan - Administration Fee	-	-	-	25,000.00	25,000.00		
4052	Fountain Play Centre- Endowment	4,291.01	3,000.00	1,291.01	3,000.00	3,000.00		
4070	Hub Revenue	3,299.18	4,000.00	(700.82)	3,000.00	3,000.00		
4075	Playcentre- Childcare Revenue	1,513.15	2,500.00	(986.85)	2,500.00	2,500.00		
4250	Pub Revenue	14,547.37	24,000.00	(9,452.63)	20,000.00	20,000.00		
4101	Food Bank Donations	-	-	-	-	-		
4072	Miscellaneous Income	85.06	-	85.06	-	-		
4000	Interest earned	280.58	-	280.58	300.00	300.00		
4040	Advertising Revenue - Handbook	-	-	-	1,500.00	1,500.00		
	Graduate Photography Income	-	-	-	1,500.00	1,500.00		
4001	Miscellaneous Fees	-	-	-	-	-		
4030	Capital Campaign Fees	-	-	-	-	-		
4200	Campus Trust Reimbursement	8,031.90	-	8,031.90	-	-		
4105	Event Revenue	-	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	-	-		
4106	Pride Center Revenue	-	1,600.00	(1,600.00)	1,000.00	1,000.00		
4125	Orientation Week Revenue- Tickets	-	-	-	-	-		
4160	Sponsorship - Other	-	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	-	-		
		856,986.50	812,886.38	44,100.12	893,737.29	893,737.29		
5285	Tutor Portal Fees	5,175.00	5,000.00	175.00	-	-		
5310	Fountain Playcentre Purchases	4,291.01	3,000.00	1,291.01	3,000.00	3,000.00		
5320	Handbook Expenses	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	1,500.00	1,500.00		
5325	Health Plan Expenses	1,253.23	-	1,253.23	-	-		
5330	Hub Supplies & Costs	2,601.45	3,000.00	(398.55)	3,000.00	3,000.00		
5455	Other Expenses (Hub)	403.52	600.00	(196.48)	600.00	600.00		
5345	Pride Center	1,624.23	5,000.00	(3,375.77)	3,000.00	3,000.00		
5481	Sponsorship- Students	-	-	-	-	-		
5655	Liquor Purchases	4,229.88	6,500.00	(2,270.12)	5,000.00	5,000.00		
5660	Pub Supplies	1,131.05	3,000.00	(1,868.95)	3,000.00	3,000.00		
5675	Repairs & Maintenance	-	1,500.00	(1,500.00)	1,500.00	1,500.00		
5750	Food & Beverage Purchases (Resale)	-	-	-	-	-		
5100	Full-time Salaries	156,788.60	181,768.00	(24,979.40)	183,980.16	183,980.16		
5110	Executive Salaries	135,162.44	153,702.91	(18,540.47)	149,921.64	149,921.64		
5610	FPC Wages	18,497.84	27,444.39	(8,946.55)	26,270.87	26,270.87		
5640	Soup Kitchen Wages	12,943.41	13,485.61	(542.20)	12,908.96	12,908.96		
5680	Food Bank Wages	12,227.11	13,485.61	(1,258.50)	15,901.86	15,901.86		
5125	The Hub Wages	22,966.31	32,239.27	(9,272.96)	28,908.95	28,908.95		
5620	Campus Pub Wages	40,469.01	52,343.36	(11,874.35)	54,715.09	54,715.09		
5630	Pride Center Wages	7,068.41	9,855.89	(2,787.48)	9,334.38	9,334.38		
5122	Marketing Staff Wages	3,838.87	13,411.74	(9,572.87)	12,485.78	12,485.78		
5233	RRSP Paid	-	6,088.40	(6,088.40)	6,799.01	6,799.01		
5152	CPP Expense	19,106.42	29,615.34	(10,508.92)	29,418.45	29,418.45		
5151	EI Expense	8,697.50	11,428.04	(2,730.54)	11,352.06	11,352.06		
5145	Other Wages & Salaries	3,869.24	4,836.24	(967.00)	4,836.24	4,836.24		
5231	Health Insurance	11,508.33	13,634.76	(2,126.43)	13,634.76	13,634.76		
5232	Health Spending	3,110.05	4,000.00	(889.95)	4,000.00	4,000.00		
5140	SRC Staff Wages	7,885.00	16,850.00	(8,965.00)	16,850.00	16,850.00		
5134	Casual Labour	-	-	-	-	-		
5144	General Manager Hiring Fees	-	-	-	-	-		
5146	SRC Expenses	166.09	600.00	(433.91)	600.00	600.00		
5550	Sub-Contractor	13,447.81	2,500.00	10,947.81	12,000.00	12,000.00		
5160	Capital Campaign Fees - 1	-	-	-	-	-		
5162	CFS Membership Dues	66,169.20	61,373.40	4,795.80	65,613.74	65,613.74		
5165	Yearbook Fees - 1	-	-	-	-	-		
5190	Accounting & Audit Fees	16,345.20	12,000.00	4,345.20	15,000.00	15,000.00		
5191	Bookkeeping Services	416.10	1,840.00	(1,423.90)	1,840.00	1,840.00		
5220	Courier & Postage	178.39	-	178.39	-	-		
5240	Insurance	15,727.47	23,267.16	(7,539.69)	24,000.00	24,000.00		
5245	Interest & Bank Charges	2,044.04	2,500.00	(455.96)	2,500.00	2,500.00		
5250	Legal Fees	1,206.69	5,000.00	(3,793.31)	5,000.00	5,000.00		
5260	Photocopier Expenses	6,824.39	6,930.00	(105.61)	6,930.00	6,930.00		
5275	Rent	13,750.00	15,000.00	(1,250.00)	15,000.00	15,000.00		
5280	Telephone & Communication	14.03	-	14.03	-	-		
5290	Website Expenses	657.68	1,500.00	(842.32)	1,500.00	1,500.00		
5350	Food Bank Expenses	1,251.05	4,000.00	(2,748.95)	4,000.00	4,000.00		
5360	Food Bank Supplies	24,399.58	30,000.00	(5,600.42)	30,000.00	30,000.00		
5351	Food Bank Special Funds	5,536.50	-	5,536.50	-	-		
5370	Soup Kitchen Supplies	5,327.76	8,000.00	(2,672.24)	8,400.00	8,400.00		
5371	Soup Kitchen Expenses	806.09	500.00	306.09	500.00	500.00		
5380	Cook Book Project Expense	64.74	-	64.74	-	-		
5405	Bereavement & Hospitality	1,200.25	1,500.00	(299.75)	1,500.00	1,500.00		
5406	Charitable Funds Donated	-	-	-	-	-		
5410	Conference Expenses (Union)	10,733.80	10,000.00	733.80	12,000.00	12,000.00		
5410	Conference Expenses (Campus Trust)	8,031.90	-	8,031.90	-	-		
5820	Conference Expenses (Pub)	-	-	-	-	-		
5420	Elections Expense	420.59	900.00	(479.41)	900.00	900.00		
5430	Marketing/Promotion	2,290.74	4,500.00	(2,209.26)	4,500.00	4,500.00		
5445	Licensing Other	31.15	-	31.15	50.00	50.00		
5450	Training & Onboarding	4,542.83	3,000.00	1,542.83	3,000.00	3,000.00		
5452	Training & Onboarding (Pub)	1,255.99	1,000.00	255.99	1,000.00	1,000.00		
5460	Office Supplies & Expenses	3,645.62	5,000.00	(1,354.38)	3,000.00	3,000.00		
5464	Office Supplies & Expenses (Pub)	-	100.00	(100.00)	100.00	100.00		
5470	Societies Subsidies	6,938.99	8,000.00	(1,061.01)	8,000.00	8,000.00		
5480	Sponsorship- Events	-	-	-	-	-		
5525	General Programming	7,146.11	14,000.00	(6,853.89)	12,000.00	12,000.00		
5540	Orientation Expense	23,035.37	17,000.00	6,035.37	19,250.00	19,250.00		
5672	Licensing Fee (Music)	2,053.19	2,100.00	(46.81)	2,100.00	2,100.00		
5720	Other Pub Expenses	1,736.98	4,000.00	(2,263.02)	2,000.00	2,000.00		
5825	COCA/CHMA Membership Fees	-	500.00	(500.00)	-	-		
5830	Credit Card Fees	-	-	-	-	-		
5840	Interest & Bank Charges	-	-	-	-	-		
5875	Consulting services	-	-	-	-	-		
5527	Wellness Expenses	-	-	-	-	-		
5225	Depreciation Expense	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00		
5440	Miscellaneous Operating Costs	-	-	-	-	-		
5895	Cash Over/Short	98.52	-	98.52	-	-		
5265	Simple Tix Fees	-	500.00	(500.00)	-	-		
7000	CRA Penalties	25.99	-	25.99	-	-		
5163	Contingency	2,940.19	7,000.00	(4,059.81)	5,000.00	5,000.00		
		760,308.93	867,400.12	(107,091.19)	894,201.95	894,201.95		
	Surplus/(Deficit)	96,677.57	(54,513.74)		(464.66)	(464.66)		

Mount Saint Vincent University Student Unions' Association
Statement of Revenue & Expenditure
for period ended March 31, 2026

(unaudited)

Revenue	2026	2025	\$ Change (PY)
General Membership	698,698.07	661,458.49	37,239.58
CFS Fees	66,169.20	66,459.91	- 290.71
Orientation Fees	22,750.00	28,612.50	- 5,862.50
Food Security	37,320.98	24,231.29	13,089.69
FPC Endowment	4,291.01	8,400.00	- 4,108.99
Service Revenue	19,359.70	29,940.06	- 10,580.36
Donations	-	20,549.00	- 20,549.00
Other Income	8,397.54	9,221.92	- 824.38
Total Revenue	<u>856,986.50</u>	<u>848,873.17</u>	<u>8,113.33</u>
Expenses			
CFS Fees	66,169.20	66,459.91	- 290.71
Salaries & Wages	464,138.54	395,257.00	68,881.54
Services Expenses	137,184.15	91,177.09	46,007.06
Professional Fees	17,967.99	33,252.20	- 15,284.21
Operating Cost	74,849.05	99,663.32	- 24,814.27
Total Expenses	<u>760,308.93</u>	<u>685,809.52</u>	<u>74,499.41</u>
Excess Revenue over Expenditure	<u>96,677.57</u>	<u>163,063.65</u>	<u>- 66,386.08</u>

Mount Saint Vincent University Student Unions' Association
Statement of Financial Position
as at March 31, 2026

(unaudited)

Assets	2026	2025	\$ Change PY
Cash & Cash Equivalents	162,553.95	103,739.06	58,814.89
Funds in Trust	508,006.74	548,415.86	- 40,409.12
Capital Asset	278,935.40	151,616.01	127,319.39
Net Capital Assets	<u>949,496.09</u>	<u>803,770.93</u>	<u>145,725.16</u>

Liabilities & Net Assets			
Accounts Payables & Accrued Liabilities	45,145.74	68,197.09	- 23,051.35
Excess expense over revenue	96,677.57	163,063.65	- 66,386.08
Net Asset	<u>807,672.78</u>	<u>572,510.19</u>	<u>235,162.59</u>
	<u>949,496.09</u>	<u>803,770.93</u>	<u>145,725.16</u>

Funds held in Trust Allocated:

Student Union Summary	375,799.97
CFS Fees	52,700.84
Students' Union Campaign Fees	52,828.16
Food Bank Allocation	26,677.77
	<u>508,006.74</u>

**MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION
FOOD SECURITY STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES
COMPARISON 2026/2025**

	2025/26	2024/25	\$ Change PY
Cash in University Trust (May 1)	10,929.15	-	10,929.15
Receipts			
Collected from student fees	29,469.60	24,407.60	5,062.00
Donation from RBC	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Donation from Advancement	14,400.00	8,400.00	6,000.00
Donation from Feed Nova Scotia	3,000.00	6,000.00	- 3,000.00
Individual Monetary/GiftCards donation	200.00	1,362.00	- 1,162.00
	<u>63,998.75</u>	<u>43,169.60</u>	<u>20,829.15</u>
Disbursements			
Food Bank Supplies	24,399.58	16,479.49	7,920.09
Food Bank Expenses	1,251.05	1,688.06	- 437.01
Food Bank special funds Disbursed	5,536.50	7,158.60	- 1,622.10
Soup Kitchen Supplies	5,327.76	6,071.65	- 743.89
Soup Kitchen Expenses	806.09	842.65	- 36.56
	<u>37,320.98</u>	<u>32,240.45</u>	<u>5,080.53</u>
Cash remaining	26,677.77	10,929.15	15,748.62
Funds to be transferred interally by funds held in trust	34,120.98	13,478.45	20,642.53

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to April, 2, 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 April, 2, 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.

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to April, 2, 2025)

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 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

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to April, 2, 2025)

*Study title: Sensory, satiating and glycaemic characteristics of cheese and non-dairy alternative products to cheese

- Research Study: MSVU EEG Lab | Department of Psychology

*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.

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to April, 2, 2025)

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

Maintenance

Emailed and actively followed up with Residence Life to report the unsanitary condition of the oil range hood in the Birch 5 kitchen.

After-Hours Building Access and Student Safety Proposal

I identified a safety and accessibility concern affecting students living on campus. Many students are unable to access main academic buildings such as McCain, Seton, and Rosaria after hours using their residence FOBs. As a result, they are forced to walk বাইরে along Seton Road to return to their dorms. This situation becomes especially dangerous during winter due to low temperatures, poor visibility, and icy conditions on the steep incline, creating a significant risk of slips and falls.

Although safe indoor routes—such as the Rosaria-Evaristus tunnel—exist, and Security can grant access to locked buildings upon request, most students are unaware of these options.

Action Taken: Proposed a joint communication campaign between Residence Life and the Students' Union to improve awareness of after-hours access protocols. Recommendations

Residence Representative - Nguyen Mai Thanh Le (Kylie)

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to April, 2, 2025)

include a collaborative Instagram post, an email bulletin to all residents, and the inclusion of a recurring “Safety & Building Access” note in Residence Life communications. The goal is to ensure students can use safe indoor pathways instead of traveling outdoors in hazardous conditions.

- 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.

BIPOC Representative – Breanne Phee

(Reporting Period: June 2nd, 2025 to April 30th, 2026)

Brief Summary of the Role

As the BIPOC Representative, my role focuses on advocacy, community building, and student support for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students.

Internal Committees

MSVUSU Internal Committees

- Rook server hiring committee
- African Heritage Month Planning committee
- Housing bursary committee
- People of African Descent Committee
- Alternative Academic Appeals Committee
- Alternative Student Judicial Committee

Student Advocacy & Support

Brief Summary: One of my main roles was to provide support to BIPOC students who have experienced discrimination or challenges related to their racial identity.

Achievement/Progress to Date:

I did this by regularly gathering feedback from fellow BIPOC students regarding their experiences at MSVU. Listening to their concerns and thoughts about the MSVU community.

-Another big project was the kindness campaign.

Achievement/Progress to Date:

The focus of the campaign was to promote inclusivity. It was created against the racist activities that happened around the MSVU community. Starting with anti-black racism gradually grew to

anti- discrimination of all kinds. The campaign is now over. The campaign lasted the month of March and is now over.

Collaboration with the African Students' Society

Brief Summary: I worked with the African Students' Society to assist them in planning events to cultivate diversity and spread awareness of their society.

Achievement/Progress to Date:

-The society has had multiple events this academic year and is working to conclude this semester with study sessions and an end-of-year celebration.

-The society had activities throughout the academic year promoting different objectives. They are currently doing a kindness campaign as well, focusing solely on spreading kindness in any way. Ex: created short videos and artwork involving the student body.

-We are currently looking into doing a clothing drive and a collab book drive with the SU before the semester ends.

Collaboration with schools and the community

Brief Summary: I was determined to build strong relationships with other black communities and societies.

Achievement/Progress to Date:

MSVU now has strong connections with black societies at Dalhousie University. There was some progress made in connecting with different community members and initiatives. No progress was made with Saint Mary's University due to unforeseen circumstances.

Transfer Student Representative – Mika Paul

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to April 2, 2025)

Brief Summary of the Role

The Transfer Student Representative in the MSVUSU aims to support all types of transfer students at MSVU through personalized support, event planning, and participation in committees. The Transfer Student Representative aims to represent the varied needs of transfer students at all levels of the university.

Internal Committees

- Budget Committee
- Society Affairs Committee
- Human Resources Committee

External Committees

- Academic Appeals Committee
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- Library & Archives Committee (SCOLA)

Mature & Transfer Student Social: Aided in the organization of an educational orientation event targeted at transfer and mature students, who are typically a more difficult demographic to engage in university life. Event had substantial turnout and good feedback. It is intended to host this event again in Fall 2026.

Captain Crow's Café: Volunteered consistently throughout the year for regular service, as well as representing Captain Crow's Café and the Food Bank at several orientation events.

Pride Center: Volunteered consistently throughout the year, aiding event planning, volunteer recruitment, and organization of the physical space.

NU-O Day: Aided in hosting an orientation event for nutrition students to meet their faculty and peers. Event resulted in high attendance of students and faculty.

Academic Integrity Reform: Attended several meetings with university administrators and Students' Union members to work towards reforming academic integrity policies at MSVU over the course of the next few terms.

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative – Leila Sobey-Skinner

(Reporting Period: July 15th, 2025, to March 1st, 2026)

Brief Summary of the Role

The 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative on the Mount Saint Vincent University Students' Union (MSVUSU) Student Representative Council (SRC) is an elected position that focuses on advocating for students who are members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. The MSVUSU expects each representative to approach their role with integrity and dedication, working to support their constituents and strengthen the larger MSVU community.

While in this position I advocated for 2SLGBTQIA+ students at MSVU while representing their interests on the Student Representative Council. I worked with both internal and external partners to help develop supports and resources for our community. Additionally, I contributed to communication initiatives alongside other representatives and executive members.

Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- Graduate Committee
- Human Resource Committee
- 2SLGBTQIA+ Committee
- EDIA Committee
- Harassment and Discrimination Advisory Committee
- Dean of Professional Studies and Graduate Studies

Events Hosted

Start of school year queer social, co-hosted with the pride center

Campus for All – A series of events working towards helping all students feel included and safe on campus

Sexual Health week – A series of events hosted by members of the student body, faculty and outside sources to help inform different groups of students of what recourses are accessible to them

Mature Student Representative – Genesis Victorino

(Reporting Period: November 24, 2025, to April 2, 2026)

Brief Summary of the Role

As the Mature Student Representative, my role is to advocate for and support MSVU students aged 25 and over, listen to their views and concerns about any academic matters, and ensure that their message is conveyed to the MSVUSU, as well as working closely with the university's services. I attend every SRC meeting, where important documents are reviewed and crucial topics are identified and discussed securing MSVU students' wellbeing.

Internal Committees/Working Groups/Events

- Writing Initiatives Committee.

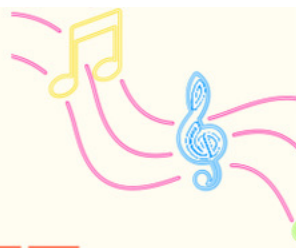
Key Contributions (Half Fall 2025 – Winter 2026)

From 24 November 2025 through the winter of 2026, I attended all SRC meetings and contributed to the decision-making process in response to every concern and given feedback when was needed. During the March *Campus for All*, I supported other SRC members with their events and I organized an open event for all MSVU students and staff. The event consisted of Latin dance classes (merengue, bachata, salsa and samba) at the Rook, led by two instructors, which made the event a success.

In Winter 2025, I supported MSVUSU by being part of the Hiring Committee, specifically FPC programming Manager and FPC Operations Manager. This ensured that the processes for electing student representatives were fair.



MSVUSU Campus For All
Presents:



Free
Event

SOCIAL DANCE



Join us for some dance lessons!



Merengue



Bachata



Salsa



Samba

Let the rhythm guide you, make new
friends & enjoy it



Wednesday
March 18th

6:00 - 8:00 pm
At the Rook





International Student Representative – Nguyen Mai Thao Le (Tessley)

(Reporting Period: September, 2025 to April 2026)

Brief Summary of the Role

The International Student Representative on the Mount Saint Vincent University Students' Union (MSVUSU) Student Representative Council (SRC) is an elected Member that advocates for international students. The MSVUSU expects each Councilor to conduct their work sincerely and to put forth their best effort to advance their constituents and the collective MSVU community.

Specific Activities:

1. Accountability

- Prepare for all SRC meetings by reviewing all relevant documents and noting talking points that represent the perspectives of international student members
- Submit biweekly reports that outline recent or ongoing commitments to student success
- Participate in all Advocacy Caucus meetings, engaging with other Councilors representing equitydenied Members

2. Effecting Positive Change



- Provide support for international student Members on all related matters within reasonable limits.
- Create one seminar, workshop, presentation, or event per semester concerned with the advancement of international students
- Streamline information about current international student movements to the Vice President of Communications to publish periodically

Committees:

- Academic Appeals Committee (AAC)

The mandate of the Academic Appeals Committee is to receive, consider and decide in accordance with Senate policies student appeals of decisions on such matters as plagiarism and cheating, the alleged misapplication of university regulations, and other decisions that affect a student's academic standing and status at the university

- Student Judicial Committee (SJC)

It is the responsibility of the Student Judicial Committee to hear and adjudicate cases brought under the [Non-Academic Discipline Policy](#).

- Student Discipline Appeals Committee (SDAC)

*alternative

Support Services

International Student Representative continues to offer three main services:



- **MSI Registration Support:** In this program, international students will be encouraged and get support to register to MSI, also get to know benefits when holding a MSI as soon as possible. This service also helps international students to know the eligibility requirements to register a MSI and and also be a reminder for students about when should they start doing their application.
- **New International Student Support:** Through this program, international students will be supported to get SIN number, where to find affordable accomodations, get courses plan reviewed & counseling sessions.
- **Students Connection & Society:** This program encourages and supports new international students make friends with others from diverse background and countries, learn about “culture shock”, also get peer supports in both academy and job search. Moerver, this program also help students get access to available volunteer opportunities & societies around MSVU, based on their interest field & career path.

Supporting/Participating Events

The Volunteers, Society, IEC, Soup Kitchen,.. in collaboration with the International Student Representative have done different events every month:

- MSVU Tax Clinic Volunteer (Community Volunteer Income Tax Program)
- 2026 Intercultural Spring Fair Volunteer/Performer
- Lunar New Year Celebration Volunteer/Performer
- Fall 2025 Orientation



msvusu

- DEFI FUSION Night Promotion Content Creator
- Notetaking with MSVU Accessibility Services

Accessibility Representative – Tanner Saunders
(Reporting Period: October 10, 2025, to March 28, 2026)

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

- Budget Committee
- Academic Appeals Committee (AAC)
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Student Judicial Committee
- Student Discipline Appeals Committee

Hosted Events

Stress Ball Making

(In collaboration with Accessibility Services)

Hosted before finals of the Fall term, students could create stress balls to ease test anxiety. Catering by Crows Café was provided. Total students in attendance were around 30 over the course of a few hours.



Paint and Plant

(In Collaboration with The Garden Society)

Students were provided paint to customize a provided flowerpot. The Garden Society graciously donated plant clippings (and their knowledge) for student to be able to leave the event with a plant to go in their newly paint pot.

Overall attendance was 25 students over the course of 2 hours.



Current/Past Projects & Campus Involvement (As of March 28th, 2026)

Accessibility Advisory Panel – I was given the opportunity to join in on a campus exchange regarding accessibility. There I was able to join five other panelists as we were asked a series of questions about accessibility on campus and what we believe can be done to improve accessibility at MSVU. The event was attended by MSVU

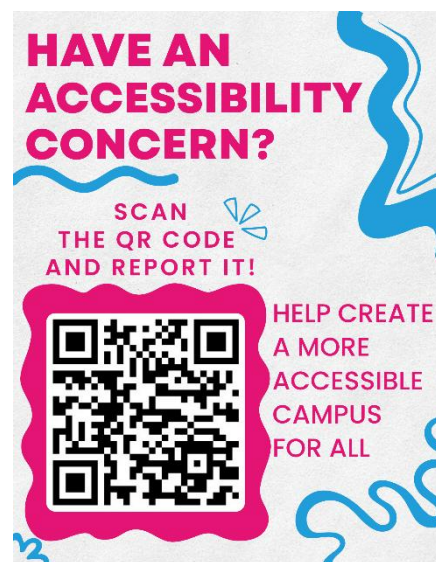


Administration Executives, professors, students, and Student Union members.

Reviewing the MSVU Accessibility Plan (2025 – 2028) – I reviewed the 24-page Accessibility Plan to better understand MSVU’s vision, and plan for creating an accessible campus. I provided my comments and criticism where needed to ensure that students affected by this plan will receive the best possible representation. This document was sent to the SU President where it was then presented to The Senate.

Food Security for Residence Students – One of my biggest initiatives was searching for a solution to the difficulty Residence students face when transporting groceries from the bus stop to their room. I first put together a few ideas around a possible shuttle service similar to other universities, providing better lighting along pathways to make it safer, and opening McCain so students don’t have to walk outside the entire way. Unfortunately, after meeting with multiple MSVU staff members, the shuttle service idea was shut down. However, security informed me they would be opening McCain after hours so students returning once it is closed wouldn’t need to traverse most of campus outside. Security also said they are looking into expanding lighting along main paths.

Accessibility Concern Survey – 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. Through these comments I have put together a form where students can report accessibility issues they have on campus. I hope this form can be used as a way to collect accessibility data and ideally see areas that need focus from the Accessibility Rep going forward.



Events Participated In

- Garden Society Pumpkin Carnival
- Halloween Dance & Social
- Casino Night
- Sex, Healthy relationship, and Sex
toy BINGO
- Citadel Hill Ghost Tour
- Storm Kit Distribution
- Magician show
- Weekly Trivia Night
- History Society, A Victorian
Christmas at the Citadel
- Political, Economic, and
Philosophical Society (PEPS) – NYC
Mayoral Election Viewing
- Science Society SMU Observatory
Tour
- Mocktail Competition
- Science Society/Jack.org Build Your
Own Terrarium
- Holiday Tree Lighting
- Campus Exchange – Accessibility at
MSVU
- Paws Room
- Sip & Study
- Flurry
- The Rook Valentines Day Party
- Silent Disco
- 2016 Dance
- PEPS Film Nights (Multiple)
- PEPS Musical Fundraiser
- More I can't remember the name of

Board of Governors Representatives – Jackson MacIntyre

(Reporting Period: October 10, 2025, to April 9, 2026)

Brief Summary of the Role

As the Board of Governors Representative, my primary focus is on adequate resource allocation to meet students' needs and developing administrative policy to protect student interests. I do this through representing and fighting for students' interests on the board of governors. Below is my report outlining things that I have done as the Board of Governors Representative since I was elected on October 10th.

Committees

- Board of Governors
- Advancement and External Relations Committee
- Campus Planning Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Presidential Review Committee
- Social Media & Creative Content Manager Hiring Committee
- Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee

Events

- 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)

- Flurry (Organizer – January 10th)
- Winter Volleyball Cup (Participant)

Nexus 3: A Super Smash Bros. Melee Tournament Coming April 11th

Nova Scotia's Premier Arcadian is back at The Rook Café and Pub! Entry is FREE for MSVU Students and Alumni. Register today! <https://start.gg/nexus3>

Featuring two main events:

Arcadian Singles – All current and former PR players are banned.

Pro-Am Dubs – Doubles where each team is limited to 1 PR player.

Schedule:

Doors - 2PM

Doubles - 2:30PM

RR Pools - 4:30PM

Top Cut - 6:30PM

Amateur Bracket - 7PM

Top 8 - 8PM

Outside of the Union

Hello everyone! I'm Jackson MacIntyre (He/Him), a fourth-year student completing a BSc in Psychology at the Mount. 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.

First-Year Representative – Celina Cormier

Overview

This report outlines activities, events, and committee work completed during the reporting period. All events described were part of the Campus For All March programming and were planned collaboratively by various Student Council members.

Events

Rock Painting Event (Thursday, March 5th, 2026)

A rock painting event was held with the goal of promoting positive and encouraging messages around campus. A promotional poster for the event was created in advance. All supplies for the event were provided by Keltie Jones.

Drag Workshop with Izzy Limpwrist (Tuesday, March 24th, 2026)

A drag workshop was organized and hosted, focusing on introducing the basics of drag, including makeup application, costuming, and wig installation. Free drag supplies were provided to participants. A promotional poster was also created to advertise the event.

Queer Prom Support

Assisted with Queer Prom by finding, hiring, and organizing the drag portion of the event. The drag performers included Shmommy, Richard Rockhard, and Randi E. Rogenous.

Committees

Actively participated as a member of both the Budget Committee and the Constitution and Planning Committee.

Other Contributions

Provided support to students by addressing concerns and redirecting them to appropriate resources and services when needed.

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 (Alter) (SDAC)
- Pay & Honorarium Committee
- Food services Hiring committee

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

- Throwback Residence Dinner (helped set up event)
- **Hot chocolate social (planned)**
- Ski Trip (participated)
- Pot planter painting (helped set up event)
- Thrifty swap and shop (participated)
- Social Dance (participated)
- Silent Disco (participated)
- Collage night (participated)
- Crows cafe volunteering
- The Rook Flurry event (helped set up event)
- **Sexual health week (planned) - Waves of change (planned)**
- Volleyball cup (participated)
- Mocktail competition (participated)
- **Body scrub and card making event (planned)**

Outside of council, I am vice president campus correspondence for the Garden Society, and a member of jack.org. 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 juliana.fanning@msvu.ca.





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Pride Centre Manager – Ayden Penney

(Reporting Period: August 2025 to April 2026)

Brief Summary of the Role

This role involves organizing and executing various student-focused events, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment within the Pride Centre as well as collaborating with student societies and campus partners. It also includes managing volunteers, promoting campus initiatives, providing access to resources and developing programming that supports 2SLGBTQIA+ students in addition to the broader campus community.

Services

The Pride Centre continues to provide accessible and essential services during operating hours, including:

- Access to 2SLGBTQIA+ educational materials and literature.
- Distribution of health resources such as contraceptives and STI tests.
- The Transformation Closet, offering gender-affirming clothing.
- Social and study space for students to connect, collaborate and build community.
- Sensory-friendly hours with adjusted lighting and reduced noise.
- Fidget resources and accessibility supports for students with sensory needs.

Accomplishments

Across the Fall and Winter terms, the Pride Centre significantly improved its space, increased student engagement and expanded programming through the following:

- Organized and executed numerous successful events that fostered community engagement and increased visibility of the Pride Centre and student organizations.
- Hosted a 2SLGBTQIA+ oriented Movie Night in collaboration with the History Society, featuring a historically relevant film and themed refreshments.
- Ran a PRIDE and Anti-Prejudice Bracelet-Making Drop-In, achieving some of the highest attendance of the academic year.

- Coordinated Geek BINGO in partnership with the Cultural Studies Society, exceeding expected attendance and reaching full room capacity.
- Supported and contributed to various additional events funded by or run in collaboration with the Pride Centre, actively promoting student-led initiatives and campus events.
- Recruited and organized volunteers for the SHIFT Career Development Fair, including support for the professional clothing closet providing free attire to students.
- Successfully executed an Orientation Week campaign, increasing awareness, volunteer recruitment and student engagement.
- Provided students with essential resources, including educational materials, literature, contraceptives and STI testing supplies.
- Achieved the highest attendance for regular social and office hours since 2021, with consistent engagement and collaborative use of the space.
- Decluttered and reorganized the Pride Centre, improving functionality and accessibility.
- Reorganized shelving and resource systems to enhance visibility and ease of access.
- Cleaned and restructured the Transformation Closet, removing unwearable items.
- Redesigned the layout to include a “cozy corner” with comfortable seating.
- Installed LED lighting and introduced Sensory Hours, including additional lighting options for accessibility.
- Implemented a structured organizational system with clearly designated resource areas.
- Introduced Fidget Baskets with sensory tools for student use.
- Acquired a button pin machine for customizable pronoun pins and creative projects.
- Added low-seating options, including a beanbag chair and shoes-off mat, to improve comfort and accessibility.
- Hosted a Student Union and Volunteer appreciation event, giving all Student Union Service Managers and associates a chance to celebrate their collective work over the academic year.

Initiatives

Throughout both terms, the Pride Centre developed and sustained several key initiatives aimed at accessibility, inclusivity and future growth:

- Begun the creation of a map and pin board to showcase and celebrate the diverse cultural backgrounds of Pride Centre patrons.
- Implementation of a Crisis Box containing harm reduction tools and crisis support resources.
- Establishment of a Non-Perishable Snack Box to support students experiencing food insecurity or irregular eating schedules.
- Expansion of Pride Centre decor, with emphasis on underrepresented pride flags, including Two-Spirit and Disability Pride flags.
- Planning and execution of fundraising, educational and social programming in collaboration with student societies and faculty partners.
- Development of recurring and special events, including:
 - Clothing Swap N' Shop fundraiser (raising over \$1000 over the course of two successful iterations during the Fall and Winter Semesters).
 - 2SLGBTQIA+ Student Social events.
 - Board Game Nights.
 - Queer History Movie Night (with the History Society).
 - Name Change Workshop (with Accessibility Services).
 - Tie-Dye Night.
 - Sex and Disability Workshop (in collaboration with local business Venus Envy).
- The continuation of the annual Queer Prom and Drag Show, which successfully brought students together for a night of music, entertainment and fun before the beginning of exam season.
- The organization of Sexual Health Week alongside other members of the Student Union, combining social engagement with educational outreach.
- Active contribution to the Campus For All Initiative, promoting anti-discriminatory practices and inclusive community building.

Fountain Play Centre – MSVUSU

Ummay Siddiqua Moutushi, Operations Manager

Joy Irubor, Programming Manager

Reporting Period: April 2025 – March 2026

1. Introduction

The Fountain Play Centre (FPC) continues to serve as a vital, inclusive, and nurturing space for children and families within the Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) community. Throughout the reporting period, the centre has experienced steady growth in enrollment, increased engagement from student families, and continued recognition as a trusted support system. The program remains grounded in play-based learning, fostering children's creativity, independence, and social-emotional development while supporting student parents in balancing academic and family responsibilities.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

As Operations Manager, Ummay Siddiqua Moutushi oversees daily operations, enrollment management, scheduling, safety compliance, and volunteer coordination. This role ensures that the centre runs efficiently while maintaining high standards of care and organization.

As Programming Manager, Joy Irubor is responsible for designing and implementing engaging, developmentally appropriate programming. This includes planning creative, sensory, and cooperative play activities that align with children's developmental needs and interests.

Together, both roles collaborate to ensure a holistic, responsive, and high-quality childcare experience for all families.

3. Enrollment Overview

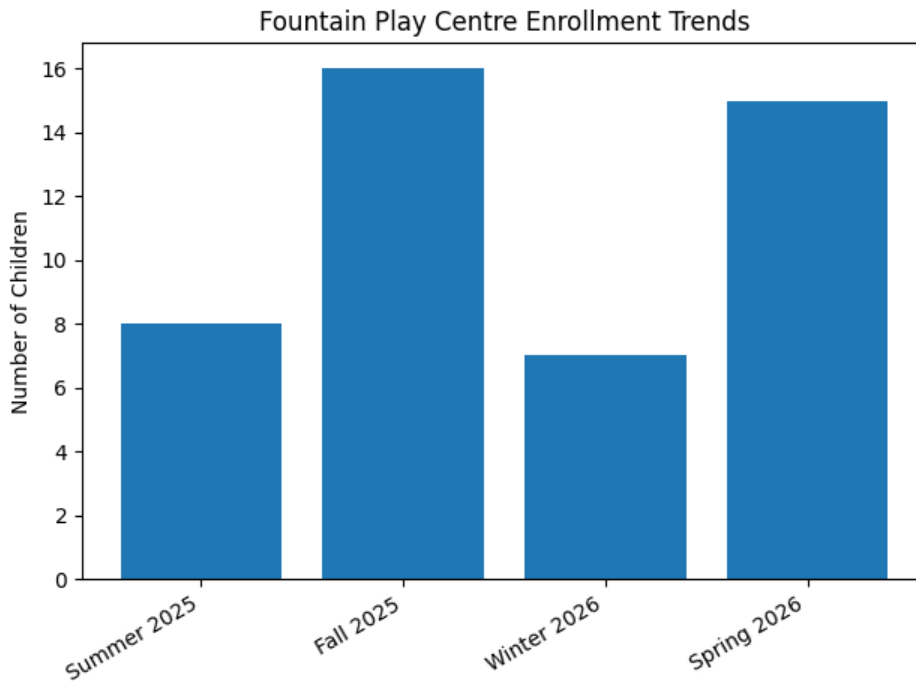
The following table outlines enrollment trends across the reporting period:

Term	Number of Children
Summer 2025	8
Fall 2025	16

Winter 2026	7
March Break / Spring 2026 (Projected)	15

The data reflects a clear upward trend in demand, particularly during peak academic periods. Fall 2025 saw the highest enrollment, while projections for Spring 2026 indicate continued growth.

Enrollment Trends (Bar Graph):



4. Program Highlights

Throughout the year, the Fountain Play Centre implemented a variety of engaging activities designed to support children's holistic development. These included art-based projects, sensory play, cooperative group activities, and outdoor exploration.

During Summer 2025, significant improvements were made to the physical environment, including reorganizing the space, upgrading materials, and enhancing hygiene practices. Outdoor programming was introduced, allowing children to explore the campus environment and engage in activities such as nature walks, bug exploration, and creative outdoor play.

In Fall and Winter terms, programming continued to evolve with seasonal activities that encouraged creativity, independence, and social interaction.

5. Volunteers and Operations

The centre operated with a total of four volunteers, with two fully active and two requiring supervision. This limited capacity placed increased responsibility on management to maintain safe child-to-caregiver ratios and ensure program consistency.

To address this, a structured volunteer recruitment and screening process was introduced. This ensures that new volunteers are committed, reliable, and capable of engaging meaningfully with children.

6. Challenges and Solutions

Key challenges during the reporting period included volunteer shortages, limited physical space, inconsistent volunteer engagement, and occasional overcapacity situations.

In response, several measures were implemented, including improved screening processes, clearer expectations for volunteers, and better space organization. These steps have contributed to improved operational stability and program quality.

7. Community Impact

The Fountain Play Centre plays a critical role in supporting student parents at MSVU. Families consistently report feeling supported by the safe, welcoming, and flexible environment provided by the centre.

This support directly contributes to student success, retention, and overall well-being. Additionally, children benefit from opportunities to build social connections, develop emotional skills, and engage in meaningful play.

8. Future Goals

Looking ahead, the centre aims to expand its capacity and enhance program quality through increased volunteer recruitment, staff support, and potential expansion of physical space. These improvements will allow the centre to better meet growing demand and continue serving the MSVU community effectively.

9. Closing Statement

The Fountain Play Centre is more than a childcare service—it is an essential pillar of support for student families at MSVU. As demand continues to grow, investing in the centre's expansion will be key to sustaining and enhancing its impact. We remain

committed to fostering an inclusive, supportive, and enriching environment where both children and families can thrive.

Rook Assistant Manager – Grace Stuart

(Reporting Period: August 25, 2025, to May 27, 2026)

Service and Role

The Rook serves as a wet/dry gathering place on campus with a focus on social connection and harm reduction. The space hosts a large variety of events run by Mount students and departments.

As the Rook Assistant Manager I oversee staff, products, and events while also working as a server or security as needed. My position often involves collaboration with members of the Executive Committee, other service managers, and university departments such as Residence Life. A large part of my role is working to ensure constant compliance with the Liquor Licensing Regulations of the Nova Scotia Liquor Control Act as well as university policies and regulations and the Fire Safety Act.

Supervision and Hiring

In the summer of 2025, I participated in the Rook Staff Hiring Committee. Onboarding for this year's team included completion of the Serve Right training as required by Liquor Licensing Regulations, online meetings, in person orientation, and shadowing of myself and returning staff members. Staff meetings are held as needed to discuss any areas of concern and address any questions staff may have as well as ongoing open communication with the team to answer questions as they come up.

I additionally participated in the hiring process for the incoming cross-trained staff members for the 2026-27 and will be onboarding the incoming Rook Manager.

Products

We have received positive feedback from students for re-introducing shots and doubles in September of 2025. These had been unavailable in the space for multiple years, however the team felt that with staff following Serve Right safety standards, re-introducing them aligns with our harm reduction approach.

When developing the menu, I focused on creating an elevated mocktail and having more mature non-alcoholic options such as non-alcoholic wines and more complex mocktails with specialty syrups. I am very pleased with the feedback I have received on our non-alcoholic menu items. Offering non-alcoholic items that ensure customers can feel equally included in events and reduce social pressures to drink alcoholic options just to align with social expectations is an important part of our harm reduction approach.

Planning for the Upcoming Year

I have contributed to the restructuring of the management role for the upcoming year to ensure adequate support and time allowances. This will support the success of the space, team, daily operations, booking system, and events. I am confident that these changes will build a foundation for better student utilization and satisfaction in the Rook for future years.

Hub Manager – Peter Cromwell

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025, to May 1st, 2026)

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.

Starting in March, we began our hiring for our staff for the Fall 2026/Winter 2027 school terms. The process has not ended, but it is expected to be completed by the start of April. Onboarding, the same as last year, should be conducted during the summer months in preparation for full opening in the fall.

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.

In the winter semester, we were able to bring back Monsters, which continues to be a main seller, and other new products such as Pringles, Alani, Redbull, frozen meals, etc. These have seen good success with our students and visitors. We continue to add new products and take in requests from students.

During March, the Hub participated as the canteen for the ACAA tournament hosted by the Mount; This had lots of success in terms of sales of various food items and drinks during the tournament.

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.

The Hub once again worked with Election Coordinator to set up the spring elections and the Hub's role as one of its voting locations. At the time of writing the voting hasn't begun, but I believe we will have a good turnout.

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

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

(Reporting Period May 1, 2025 – March 1, 2026)

Brief Summary of the Service

Captain Crow’s Café provides free vegetarian meals for students, staff, and community members three times 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 two to three times a week, consisting of vegetarian dishes and snacks for MSVU students, staff, and community members. Our first weekly service

consists of a hot meal (i.e. main dish, side and dessert). These meals comprise a variety of cultural dishes, changing week to week depending on student interest and ingredient availability/seasonality. The second weekly service consists of snack boxes (filled with veggies, pita chips, and dips) and other snacks or desserts that can be taken “to-go”. The third weekly service, implemented in February 2026, offered café items such as coffee, tea, bagels and baked goods at “self-serve” stations, allowing for a more relaxed and casual atmosphere.

Achievements: Regularly supported approximately 40 students, staff, and community members two to three days a week with diverse, nutritious food options - almost all meals included a vegan and/or gluten-free component to accommodate those with dietary restrictions. Expanded weekly services to include café & breakfast food items. Made connections with a local business to receive weekly donations of fresh bagels. 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 in July 2025. The Cookbook Consultant role includes promoting the submission of student recipes, testing and selecting recipes, and editing the cookbook. Recipe submissions were open from June 10th to September 30th, where we received just under 30 student submissions, as well as three recipes from the MSVU Two-Eyed Seeing Program . Recipe testing and formatting has

been occurring simultaneously – roughly 80% of the recipes have been fully tested, and approximately half of the cookbook has been formatted. The remaining work is set to be completed in April 2026.

Achievements: While the project is still in progress, it has seen a wide variety of both cultural recipes, as well as personal creations - the majority of which have passed the testing phase and are set to be published in the final draft of the cookbook.

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, nasturtiums & herbs in the raised garden bed, which were used in various Soup Kitchen meals and snacks. Planted garlic to over-winter in the garden bed to be harvested in the summer of 2026. Grew a variety of herbs and lettuces in the aeroponics tower garden for Soup Kitchen and Food Bank use. 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

Beginning in the summer of 2025, Captain Crows Café began catering events for various MSVU societies, groups and committees. Snacks, similar to those in our snack boxes, were typically served, alongside themed desserts. Occasionally, full meals (i.e. main dish, side & dessert) were prepared for events. The Soup Kitchen provided food for a total of 12 events, from May 2025 to April 2026:

- International Education Centre – *Summer Social Club Game Night* (July 2025)
- Students' Union - *Mature/Transfer Student Social* (September 2025)
- Garden Society - *Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk* (September 2025)
- International Student Society – *Diwali Celebration* (October 2025)
- Garden Society – *Pumpkin Carnival* (October 2025)
- Political, Economic, and Philosophical Society (PEPS) – *NYC Mayoral Election Viewing* (November 2025)
- Pride Centre – *Sip & Study* (December 2025)
- Garden Society – *Bookmark Making & Tea Alchemy* (January 2026)
- Students' Union – *Elections Social* (March 2026)
- PEPS – *MLA letter-writing workshop* (March 2026)
- Jack.org - *Jack Talk: Performance-Based Self Worth* (March 2026)
- Pride Centre – *Queer Prom* (March 2026)

MSVUSU Food Bank – Daniela Aguilar, Manager

(Reporting Period: May 1, 2025 – March 1, 2026)

Brief Summary of the Service

The MSVUSU Food Bank is dedicated to providing vital food support to students, staff, and community members facing food insecurity. By using a student-choice model, we empower individuals to choose food items that suit their dietary needs, cultural backgrounds, and household situations. This approach not only fosters dignity and autonomy but also leads to better nutritional outcomes.

During this reporting period, our focus has been on enhancing service delivery, improving accessibility, and developing culturally responsive programs to better cater to our diverse campus community.

Internal Committees / Working Groups

MSVUSU Internal Committees:

- Food Security Services Committee

Key Programs & Initiatives

Food Bank Services

Brief Summary: The Food Bank has consistently operated, ensuring reliable access to food through our student-choice system. We've worked hard to maintain a balanced supply of fresh produce, proteins, and culturally appropriate items.

Achievements: Continued to support a high volume of users each month. Maintained a variety of culturally relevant food options. Improved organization and service flow for a smoother experience.

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

Brief Summary: We successfully rolled out the Back-to-School Support Program once again, helping 21 student families gear up for the academic year for their children.

Achievements: Distributed essential school supplies like backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and markers. Alleviated financial stress for families with children. Strengthened support for student parents within our campus community.

Standards of Excellence Project (Completed & Submitted)

Brief Summary: The Standards of Excellence Project, funded through a grant, was completed and officially submitted during this reporting period. The project focused on strengthening internal operations and long-term sustainability.

Achievements: Developed key operational frameworks. Improved structure for service delivery and evaluation. Positioned the Food Bank for continued growth and funding opportunities.

Accessible Cultural Support Initiatives

Brief Summary: New initiatives were introduced to ensure services are culturally inclusive and accessible to a diverse student population.

Achievements: Increased availability of culturally relevant food items. Improved inclusivity in programming and service delivery. Fostered a more welcoming and respectful environment for all users

Service Improvements & New Measurements

Brief Summary: New systems and measurements were implemented to improve service quality, efficiency, and accountability.

Achievements: Introduced evaluation tools to monitor service effectiveness. Enhanced ability to respond to demand and adjust services accordingly.

Volunteer Guidelines & Service Dynamics

Brief Summary: Updated guidelines and structure for volunteers were developed to improve consistency and professionalism in service delivery.

Achievements: Established clearer roles and expectations for volunteers. Improved training and onboarding processes. Strengthened overall service coordination and client experience.

Holiday Gift Card Program (Thanksgiving & Christmas 2025)

During the holiday season, the Food Bank stepped up by distributing grocery gift cards, helping users celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with dignity and choice. In total, 110 gift cards were handed out to those in need.

These gift cards were made possible by generous donations from our community and a partnership with the Feed Nova Scotia Holiday Fund. This collaboration enabled recipients to purchase fresh, culturally significant foods for their holiday celebrations.

Achievements: Distributed 110 grocery gift cards to Food Bank users. Strengthened community partnerships through collaboration and donations. Empowered individuals and families to select foods that fit their cultural and dietary needs. Alleviate financial stress during the holiday season

Partnerships & Food Donations

Brief Summary: In partnership with Second Harvest, the Food Bank received approximately 2,000 kg of food during this reporting cycle, including fresh produce and non-perishable items. Including donations provided by Shoppers Drug Mart, No Frills, KFC, Lawtons Drugs, and other local partners.

Achievements: Secured approximately 2,000 kg of food donations. Increased access to fresh and essential food items. Strengthened community partnerships.

Conclusion

During this reporting period, the MSVUSU Food Bank has made significant progress in strengthening its operations, expanding culturally inclusive practices, and improving service quality. Through targeted initiatives, enhanced structure, and a continued commitment to dignity and accessibility, the Food Bank remains a vital support system for the campus community.

Moving forward, priorities include expanding outreach, refining service evaluation methods, and continuing to build strong, sustainable programs that meet the evolving needs of students and families.

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

- 19 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	\$180
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	\$1000
International Student Society	\$720
Afrocentric Society	\$400
Dance Society	\$400
Filipino Society	\$346.03
Garden Society	\$350
MSA	\$400
MSVU Varsity Sport Society	\$175
PEPS	\$800
BTS	\$300
Math Society	\$20
Child and Youth Society	\$200
Total	\$6,938.99