

# Semi-Annual General Meeting Reports

December 4, 2024

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## Table of Contents

### Executive Reports

President (Carson Cameron)

Vice President Advocacy and Undergraduate Student Affairs (August Duquette)

Vice President Student Life (Grace MacInnis)

Vice President Communications (Jasmeet Singh)

Vice President Research and Graduate Affairs (Simranpreet Kaur)

### Councilor Reports

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative (Jessie Taylor)

Accessibility Representative (Agam Vikram Sharma)

Arts Representative (Meghna Minocha)

Board of Governors Representative (Devora Goldberg)

First Year Representative (Jessie Taylor, Armaan Kush)

Gender Advocacy Representative (Juliana Fanning)

Mature Representative (Anu Damodaran)

Professional Studies Representative (Koen Schleif)

Residence Representative (Jackson MacIntyre)

Science Representative (Diana Hazelton)

### Service Reports

Food Bank (Devora Goldberg)

Captain Crows Café (Jacque Deslauriers)

Fountain Play Centre

The Hub (Peter Cromwell)

Pride Centre (Sara Zegarra)

The Rook Café and Pub (Jenna Ryall)

### Committee Reports

Human Resource Committee (Carson Cameron)

Constitution and Policy Planning Committee (Carson Cameron)

Society Affairs Committee (Grace MacInnis)

Health Insurance Plan Committee (Patti Gentile)

Student Executive Committee (Carson Cameron)

Executive Committee (Carson Cameron)

Graduate Committee (Simranpreet Kaur)

Food Security Committee (Simranpreet Kaur)

## **President – Carson Cameron**

### **Brief Summary of the Role**

This role oversees the day-to-day operations and governance of the MSVUSU. As president, I represent MSVU students on various internal as well as external bodies including the MSVU Board of Governors, Senate, and Canadian Federation of Students. I meet regularly with university administrators to build support for the Union's mission and vision. I also oversee our ongoing projects, services, legal obligations and contracts.

### **Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups**

#### MSVUSU Internal Committees

- Budget Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Constitution and Policy Planning Committee
- Crisis Communications Committee
- Student Executive Committee
- Executive Committee

### **External Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups**

#### Senate Committees/Caucus

- Senate Student Caucus
- Senate Executive
- Student Experience Committee

#### MSVU Committee

- Large Orientation Committee

#### Board of Governors Committees/Caucus

- Student Caucus
- Advisory Committee on IT&S

### **MSVU Students' Union Bursary: Aiding Students Affected by Modern Conflict**

**Brief Summary:** Over the summer, I connected and collaborated with several internal and external stakeholders to drive this bursary program. This bursary provided financial assistance for housing, helping an MSVU student affected by modern conflict secure a stable living arrangement while pursuing their academic goals. By focusing on this crucial aspect of student life, my aim was to alleviate some of this students' pressures and support their overall well-being and educational success.

**Achievement:** In September this year, CAD 12,475 was awarded to an MSVU student.

### **MSVU Students' Union Community-Based Research Project**

**Brief Summary:** This project will provide students with open-access and no-cost education from grassroots activists and academic researchers on how to help create a more food-secure community, delivering practical information to combat a pressing social issue in Halifax. Along with research focused education on food security, this project will offer one (1) paid assistantship in food security research to one of the MSVU student who partakes in this project. The paid assistantship will allow one student to continue their education on food access on a stipend that can alleviate some of their financial pressures and support their personal and professional development.

To elaborate, this project includes two distinct opportunities to advance skills in food security research and community mobilization:

- Open-access and no-cost education: four informal seminars that focus on the current state of food security in Halifax and how to improve it.

- Paid research assistantship: one (1) 12-week assistantship at an hourly rate of \$18.85 CAD for 25 hours a week, totaling \$5 655 CAD.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** Over the fall semester, I worked diligently with several stakeholders such as Canadian Federation of Students, Dr. Phillip Joy (MSVU researcher and faculty), Dr. Thériault (postdoctoral researcher at Université du Québec) and many others to develop the idea of this project, and to secure funding and assistantship opportunity. I have achieved several milestones including: confirmed research supervisor for the assistantship, presented funding proposal to CFS NS Provincial Executive Committee, developed curriculum for the seminars, identified and contacted community activists and academic researchers to deliver the seminars.

This project is a critical initiative to support students in their food security research and community mobilization education. Through this project, my hope is to provide meaningful education and foster a community-building environment that enables students to support each other and their community.

### **Standards of Excellence Grant**

**Brief Summary:** This project will provide Student's Union with a robust foundation for our Food Bank service and operations. This will allow MSVU SU Food Bank to become accredited with Food Banks Canada through a review of the organization's policies, documents, processes, and procedures. In order to better align our food bank with the national standards, we have been approved for CAD 14,187 towards the procurement of a consultant to review and update board policies and write procedures and additional staffing hours to support the work of the consultancy.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** Over the last few months, I worked closely with Food Bank Manager, Food Security Committee and Administrative Assistant and Governance Secretary to achieve several milestones including: drafting grant proposal, creating contract, facilitating decision making through Student's Representative Council, Food Security Committee, and Executive Committee. At the time of

writing this report, we have appointed our Food Security Policy Analyst (consultant) to carry out the grant-related work for the Student's Union.

### **Councilor Projects**

**Brief Summary:** I worked closely with Student's Representative Council and individual councilors to brainstorm, develop and plan their projects for the 2024-25 academic year. Furthermore, I involved interested councilors in my projects to ensure that diverse perspectives are incorporated in the decision-making process.

**Progress to Date:** Throughout the summer semester, I connected with councilors to put together their project plans. My hope was to share my knowledge and resources with them for the betterment of student experience at MSVU.

### **Community Project Fund**

**Brief Summary:** As part of this project, MSVUSU in collaboration with MSVU will provide our members with an opportunity to bring their innovative ideas to life by providing financial support.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** I am working closely with MSVU President, Dr. Joel Dickinson, to develop a creative plan to distribute funds to support innovative student projects for community betterment. At this time, I expect more information to be published in January of 2025.

### **Home Safe for the Holidays — Travel Bursary**

**Brief Summary:** The aim of this project is to provide travel assistance to our students who belong to communities outside of the HRM, primarily in rural areas that are not financially accessible without the support of this bursary.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** I am working closely with the Alumni Association to develop a pool of funds for this project. My aim is to make this bursary available to students in early December 2025.

## **Supervision**

**Brief Summary:** One of my core responsibilities is to provide support and supervision to executive councilors, full time and part time staff members. The support I provide encompasses several functions of human resource management such as creating positive work culture, empowering employees to resolve their problems and maximizing their ability to do their job in the best way possible. I strive to be a compassionate leader and encourage staff members in their pursuit of improved service and logistics related to new and ongoing initiatives.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** Supervising is time-consuming, labor intensive yet crucial part of any successful team or organization. To share a few highlights from this domain of my work, throughout summer, I supported a team of new executives in their projects and helped them understand their roles and responsibilities. From late summer into fall, I onboarded our new staff member, Administrative Assistant and Governance Secretary, and helped define the role to better suit the needs and legal obligations of the Union. Moreover, I provide ongoing support to several staff members, approving and guiding actions, providing support and mentorship as needed.

In addition to the aforementioned projects, one-on-one student support, committee and representational work, I ensure that the Students' Union continues to uphold its contractual, and legal obligations, the substance of which is confidential.

## Vice President Advocacy and Undergraduate Student Affairs - August Duquette

### Brief Summary of Role

My position entails handling advocacy efforts and supporting undergraduate students. I directly handle the Academic Appeals Support Program, which provides aid to students in the appealing of academic penalties, such as plagiarism and AI use. I, also, directly oversee the Pride Centre Manager and work with them to establish programming, projects, and space engagement.

### Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- Executive Committe
- Student Executive Committee
- Advocacy Caucus (Chair)
  - This committee did not meet very much due to lack of agenda; this is mostly an by-demand caucus and no rising concerns were established. This caucus will meet going forward for the Accessibility Project.
- Food Security Committee (Guest)
- Budget Committee (On Committee)
  - Missed meeting due to External Committee meeting.
- Crisis Communications Committee (On Committee)
  - Did not meet



## External Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- University Senate
- Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (CAPP)
- Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning (SCOTL)
- Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee (SVPAC)
- Canadian Federation of Students Provincial Executive

## Academic Experience Survey

**Brief Summary:** This is the initial data collection for a larger, ongoing project. In order to establish the project of an upcoming roundtable, set for the Winter term, it was believed that we may want to find more information. This is in collaboration with the Mature Students' Representative

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** This is step one of a larger project; truthfully, the long-term project will be projects inside of projects. We held the survey, received 13 responses, and prepared a report outlining the data. We will use this data to make the next steps, which is in-person data collection.

## Accessibility Moodlecloud Project

**Brief Summary:** This project is heavily in production. The goal is to develop a Moodlecloud for faculty where they can find information and resources on accessibility and accommodations. This would be available at any time and would not be mandatory. As such, it is believed that faculty will not feel pressured to access it and may be more receptive.

Achievement/Progress to Date: As of 11/18/24, there is no update. I will be meeting with Lori Francis, AVP Academic and Provost sometime in this week to discuss and plan for this. A verbal update will be provided.

### **Participation in Cross-Functional Projects**

#### **Naloxone Policy:**

This was a collaborative effort with all executives, but was previously spearheaded by the SU President. I wrote the draft policy for this program. At this time, it is not fully completed as I await next steps for editing, namely the meeting of the applicable committee, the Constitution and Policy Planning Committee.

#### **Queer Prom:**

This was a project co-run by the Pride Centre Manager and the Rook Manager. I helped in the initial planning stage in areas such as food planning. This was Sara and Jenna's event and I acted as support, when needed.

#### **First Year-Rep Scholarship Writing Workshop**

This was a project run and developed by Jessie Taylor, our then-First Year Representative. I took part in this workshop by preparing some slides and speaking in the workshop. In this workshop, I mentioned the scholarship held by the MSVUSU, which is available on the MSVU website.

#### **Pride Centre Website Development**

This is primarily between VP Communications and the Pride Centre Manager. I acted as support for Sara's designs and developed forms for more cohesive Pride Library checkouts. To prepare for this, I, also, did an ongoing inventory of the library. A vast majority of the work is that of Jasmeet and Sara, I merely added further resource in the library realm.



## Vice President Student Life - Grace MacInnis

### Brief Summary of 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

### Fall Orientation 2024

Brief Summary: Planned and coordinated orientation events with the university. Some events included, team building games, sex toy bingo, outdoor carnival, Citadel Hill Ghost Tour 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 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 suggest not requiring a cost for returning students, this is a big majority of our student engagement and making them pay lowers turnout. However, even with the fee for some events turnout was not lacking for events like the neon party, ghost tour, and off campus tours.

### Grandma's Night In

Brief Summary: Provided crafting materials such as yarn and crochet hooks, beads for bracelet making and coloring pages and pencils. Snacks were provided and free café beverages from the book coupons were handed out to every student, with the goal to provide a break from midterms.

Achievement/Progress to Date: The turnout was as I expected, the goal was to plan an event for students who do not enjoy bigger louder events. The students who did show up stayed almost the full 4 hours of

the events duration and I saw students trying to learn to crochet. Overall, I think the event was a success in the terms of the goal; create a relaxing space for students.

### Coquette and Country Dance

**Brief Summary:** This event is planned to be a dance after the reading week with a theme to dress according to. The theme is not enforced but is just to create more student engagement, as I have found from personal experience that turnout is higher when there is a theme.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** This event has not happened yet at the time of writing this but there is a DJ booked, the time and location is decided. I am currently working on a music set list to cater to the theme.

### Coco and Craft Night

**Brief Summary:** This event is planned to be another relaxing event before exams. It will involve Christmas movies, ornament painting, gingerbread houses possibly. The idea is to have Christmas crafts and the rook will be serving hot chocolate.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** Since this event is not until December the planning has not been huge. The space and time have been decided, in addition to what will be happening at the event. More to come in the following weeks.

### 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.

Achievement/Progress to Date: This event is not until January, so planning is not starting until late November. However, the space and time have been booked and contact with companies to rent the equipment will be in the following weeks.

## **Participation in Cross-Functional Projects**

### **Spooky Saturday**

I collaborated with Residence Life to plan a Halloween event after they cancelled their haunted house. I decided on half of the activities which included pumpkin painting and movies. Snacks were provided and gift cards were given to the winners of a contest, the cost of which was split between the Students' Union and Residence Life. I also helped decorate and undecorate for the event.

### **Monster Mash**

I collaborated with the Rook Manager to plan a Halloween dance in the rook on Halloween. I decorated for the event and undecorated, as well as communicated with the DJ prior to the event.

## **Upcoming Cross-Functional events**

### **Winter Orientation**

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

### **2 Years eve**

Me and the Rook manager plan to collaborate on a dance after the new year. There will be a DJ, possibly snacks, and decorations. More to be determined later.

### **Drag show**

The Rook manager and I plan to work together and plan a drag show sometime in the second semester. More to be planned in the near future.

### Bi-weekly Bingo

The Rook manager and I plan to host bi-weekly bingo in the second semester, with some themes being sex toy bingo, stim toy bingo, self-care bingo and more.

### February Dance

A dance for valentine's day will be planned in the second semester, there will be a theme and decorations. More planning to be done in the future.

### Saint Patrick's Day dance

A dance for Saint Patrick's Day will be planned, the event will not be on the actual day but will be close to the holiday. More to be planned in the future.

### Last class Bash

An event held in the Rook to celebrate the end of the school year, music, snacks and games provided. More to be planned in the future.



## Vice President Communications - Jasmeet Singh

### Brief Summary of Your Role

As the Vice President of Communications for the MSVU Students' Union, it has been both an honor and a privilege to serve the student body in this capacity over the past year.

In this report, I will outline the essential duties and responsibilities of the VP of Communications role, along with an overview of the initiatives and achievements undertaken during my tenure.

### Student Communication:

- Ensured effective communication of Union updates to the student body, fostering transparency and clarity, such as Union events, services, important team updates, elections marketing, etc.
- Oversaw and managed the Union's website, ensuring regular updates and continued development.
- Led the job postings of the Students' Union, helping students access job opportunities that are safe and accessible.
- For the latest job postings that were released in Summer, we've got over 60 applicants for Rook positions.
- Managed social media presence of the Students' Union. Together with the Social Media Coordinator, we made sure all the information published was up-to-date, engaging, easy to read, and professional.

- Reach: We've reached nearly 70000+ accounts over the period from August 21 to Sept 30, with nearly most of them being non-followers. We gained nearly 10000 Instagram profile visits, generating over 108,000 impressions.

#### Society Ratification:

- Acted as the primary point of contact for students seeking to ratify a society with the Students' Union. Promoted the society ratification process and ensured compliance with constitutions submitted by student groups.
- saw a surge in the number of societies ratified this year. Some have already submitted the updated constitution for ratification next year.

#### Publication, Media Production, and Advertising

- Design the student handbook 2024-2025 – from designing, content creation, not being published due to contract.
- Produced various printed & digital content for major events such as SU's Orientation events and Elections. The election advertising was a huge success.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of candidates running for By-Elections.

#### Newsletter:

- Produced and distributed bi-weekly newsletters to the student members, providing updates on Union activities and events, as well as relevant & important updates to students from different services/ surveys in and outside the University.
- The most-recent two newsletters, we got ~1500 open each.

### University Relations & Media Relations:

- Maintained regular communication with the University Relations Team and established a working relationship with all University stakeholders.
- Acted as the connection between the students' union representatives and the media during major occasions.

### Internal Committees

1. Executive Committee
2. Student Executive Committee
3. Orientation Large Committee
4. Orientation Planning Committee
5. Election Committee
6. Budget Committee
7. Pay & Honoraria Committee

### Meetings

- Attending meetings of SRC, Committees, services, marketing, student 1-0-1, etc. very regularly, actively contributing during the meetings.

### Diwali 2024

Brief Summary: Diwali is a traditional Indian festival also known as the “Festival of Lights”. MSVU has a very diverse student population. And, one among those are students originating from India. Keeping this in mind, we planned this event so that students can still enjoy this festival while being away from their homes

Achievement: The event was a huge success with more than 100 attendees and a lot of positive reviews compared with previous years in terms of finances as well as reviews.

### **Participation in Cross-Functional Projects**

#### **MSVU Student Union Bursary**

I contributed to this project by managing the communication aspect and providing support as needed.

#### **Fall By-Elections 2024**

I contributed to this project by making sure that all the students were aware of the elections through on-campus promotions as well as social media.

#### **Fall Orientation 2024**

I promoted all the orientation events as per schedule through all social media handles as well as on the website. Various promotional materials were distributed throughout the campus to spread awareness regarding MSVUSU’s services and more.

In conclusion, I am proud of the accomplishments achieved during my term as Vice President of Communications. I am confident that the initiatives undertaken have contributed positively to the student experience at MSVU.

I look forward to the continued success of the Students' Union under the leadership of the executive team. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



# Vice President Research and Graduate Student Affairs Report – Simranpreet Kaur

## Brief Summary of Your Role

As the Vice President of Research and Graduate Student Affairs, I serve as a liaison between graduate students and the administration, ensuring their voices are heard. My role focuses on advocating for resources, policies, and opportunities that enhance both academic and professional growth while fostering a supportive and inclusive environment. I work collaboratively to address student concerns, enhance research opportunities, and create initiatives that enrich the graduate student experience. With a strong commitment to student success, I aim to empower graduate students to thrive academically, personally, and professionally

## Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- Food Security Committee (FSC) (Chair)
- Graduate Student Committee (GSC) (Chair)
- Student Executive Committee (Voting member)
- Executive Committee (Voting member)
- Budget Committee (Voting member)
- Human Resources Committee (Voting member)
- Constitution & Policy Planning Committee (Voting member)
- Student Senate Caucus (Voting member)

## External Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups

- MSVU Senate (Voting member)

- Advancement and External Relations Committee (AERC)  
(Voting member)
- Graduate Studies Program and Policy Committee (GSPPC) (Voting member)
- Library and Archives Committee (SCOLA) (Voting member)
- Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) (Voting member)
- National Graduate Caucus - Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) (Voting member)
- MSVU Orientation Planning Committee (Voting member)
- MSVU Large Orientation Committee (Voting member)

#### Student Advocacy work

- One-on-one student support

#### External Events

- Lobby Week – Canadian Federation of Students



During Lobby Week 2024, we engaged with members of parliament and senators from Nova Scotia to advocate for pivotal improvements within the post-secondary education system. We successfully presented our recommendations, including the implementation of a national tuition freeze and the regulation of tuition fees for international students, ensuring their access to healthcare and simplified pathways to permanent residency. Our discussions also covered the necessity for affordable housing, advocating for the inclusion of student accommodations in the National Housing Strategy. Additionally, we emphasized the need for increased funding for accessible mental health services, aiming to eliminate barriers to these essential supports. These discussions were instrumental in advancing our goal to foster a more equitable and accessible educational landscape in Canada.



- National Annual General Meeting - I attended the National General Meeting (NGM) of the Canadian Federation of Students in Ottawa, where student representatives from various locals gathered to discuss the collective challenges facing students. At the NGM, I actively participated in the International Constituency and Campaigns Forum. Additionally, I was honored to be elected as the National Graduate Caucus Deputy Chairperson for the CFS, a role I will hold until April 2025.

### University Relations

- Meeting with the MSVU Dean, Professional & Graduate Studies
- Collaboration with Career Services for Resources for Graduate Students
- Collaboration with the Writing Centre for Resources for Graduate Students
- Collaboration with Departments to help organize regular social/ informal sessions with Graduate students (AHN Department – Café Scientifique, Online Orientation, CYS graduate Orientation)

### Mass Media Work

- Updating of the Graduate Student Committee webpage with VP Communications
- Actively participated in Event videos/ Poster promotions
- Facilitated a Graduate student community WhatsApp group as a different means of communication

### HR Participation

- Recruited Graduate Student Representatives for the Graduate Student Committee
- Support the Food Security Service Managers

### Internal Events/ Projects

- Supporting the Food Bank and Soup Kitchen Manager with their services as needed.

- Student advocacy case - I am currently handling two student advocacy cases. The first case has been addressed but requires a follow-up to ensure all concerns are fully resolved. The second case is ongoing, with a resolution anticipated in the new year.
  
- **Fall Orientation 2024:**
  - Student Services Fair: Participated alongside various MSVU departments, introducing students to the extensive support network available on campus.
  - Student Parent Social: Successfully organized an event where student parents at MSVU connected. Participants explored the various supports available for student parents. The event featured engaging games, and icebreakers, and children who attended received school kits. It was an enjoyable gathering for families.
  - Graduate Resource Fair: Hosted an event providing new graduate students with a comprehensive overview of campus resources and support services under one roof. This included access to various research offices, the writing center, library, career services, and international support systems.
  - Graduate Speed Friendling Event: Orchestrated an activity that enhanced student interactions, facilitated networking, and generated a vibrant atmosphere. This two-hour event was filled with engaging activities and snacks.
  - Graduate Game and Groove Gala: Organized an event where graduate students could connect in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. Featured activities included card games, icebreakers, bingo, and pillow passing, culminating in a lucky draw. The event's theme, 'Dress Your Heart Out,' highlighted a competition for the best-dressed attendee.

- Graduate Student Orientation: Co-facilitated the general and department-specific orientations for new students in Applied Human Nutrition and Child and Youth Study, providing tailored guidance and support.
  - Traditional Gala: In collaboration with the International Education Center, co-organized a gala where students showcased traditional attire from their home countries, enriching the evening with cultural diversity. The event featured delectable international cuisine, and lively music, and concluded with an international dance party and rook dance, creating a memorable night of unity and cultural exchange.
- Actively working on Winter Orientation 2025.

*Project Title/Theme Workshop for Mature Minds*



**Brief Summary:** This workshop is tailored to equip students with essential academic skills necessary for enhancing their research papers, focusing on writing techniques, referencing, and citations.

Additionally, it incorporates a financial literacy component designed to kick-start students' investment

journeys. A student representative also participates to share insights on balancing multiple on-campus jobs, providing a valuable student perspective.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** A well-received event.

*Project Title/Theme Graduate Social Tuesday*

**Brief Summary:** This weekly gathering is designed to foster casual interactions among graduate students. In our inaugural session, we introduced ourselves and engaged in a game of MAFIA to break the ice.

**Achievement/Progress to Date:** My goal is to host this event every Tuesday through December 10th, 2024. It's crafted specifically to provide a space where graduate students can unwind and relieve stress together during a challenging academic period.

### **Participation in Cross-Functional Projects**

**Name of the Project: MSVU Student Union Bursary: Aiding Students Affected by Modern**

#### **Conflict**

I contributed to the development of a bursary proposal designed by the MSVUSU President. Inspired by local grassroots efforts in Halifax that raised awareness about the situation in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank, the proposal aims to establish a CAD 12,475 bursary to provide safe housing for an MSVU student affected by ongoing or recent conflicts anywhere in the world. My role involved assisting with the proposal crafting, ensuring it captured the essence of community mobilization and addressed the needs of our globally impacted students. This proposal has now been submitted for donor approval.

**Name of the Project: SOE grant**

Provide support as needed.

## 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative - Jessie Taylor

### Role Description

The 2SLGBTQIA+ Students' Representative is an elected member concerned with supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ students. They are responsible for attending meetings, serving on at least two (2) committees, connecting with community resources, hosting consultation/events with 2SLGBTQIA+ students, and responding to member inquiries amongst other tasks.

During this term, I serve on three (3). I have taken over an event from the previous person in this position regarding educating students about sexual health through a fun game of BINGO. I have also communicated with community members regarding campaigns relating to queer sexual health. Since only being in this position for roughly a month now, I've yet to have the time to pursue any further projects.

### Committees

Health Insurance Plan Committee

Crisis Communications Committee

Compensation Review Committee

### Events Attended

Ongoing – Volleyball Cup

October 31 – Monster Mash

October 31 – Poetry Competition Reading

November 5 – Presidential Election Watch Party

November 8 – Open Campus Day (volunteer)

## **Student Union Accessibility Representative - Agam Vikram Sharma**

Being a newly elected member of the student union, from the starting of my term I have been trying to create new relations with my fellow council members and with the people involved in the accessibility services department. Till now its only been making and maintaining those relations for me as I need to get myself familiar with the new system, this is what I am aiming to do for the rest of the semester so that I can start doing the work which I have been planning to do with proper help and support of my newly built connections.

Thank you,

Regards.



## Arts Representative - Meghna Minocha

- CCR Projections (Carson's project)
- Diwali Night
  - Decorations
- Ongoing projects
  - Let's talk about Colonization (for the Winter semester)
- Potential projects
  - AI use in academics (with Emily and Professor Khasnabish)
  - Careers in Arts Workshop

## Board of Governors Representative - Devora Goldberg

### Overview

The Board of Governors (BOG) serves as the primary governing and decision-making body of the University. Its responsibilities include determining governance, conduct, management and control of the University to set the institution's overall strategic direction.

Being part of the Boards of Governors has been an enriching experience in which the first months were observing and learning. As the students elected representative, I voted for the decisions that will reflect the best interests and needs of the student body. My role involved active participation in BOG meetings, committee engagements, and representing the University in social activities.

### Key Responsibilities

I attended BOG meetings, contributing to discussions and decisions on critical issues, while advocating for student-focused outcomes.

I was an active member of 2 key committees, where I contributed to specific projects and strategic initiatives:

- Campus Planning Committee
  - Engaged in discussions on architectural projects and campus development.
- Nominating Committee

- Contributed to the selection process for future BOG representatives, observing that the process was fair, transparent, and inclusive.
- Attended BOG main meetings
  - Advocated for student-focused policies and initiatives.
- Meetings with the Interim President
  - Participated in discussions with the interim president to address pressing University matters and provide input from the student perspective.

#### Raising funds for student initiatives

- This effort strengthened connections between Food Bank donations and the University, ensuring ongoing support for the service provided by the Students Union.
- Attended SRC (Student Representative Council) Meetings
  - Collaborated with student representatives to align on key issues and priorities to present to the BOG.

## First Year Representative

**Jessie Taylor (May 2024 – November 2024)**

### Role Description

The First Year Students' Representative is an elected member concerned with supporting first-year students. They are responsible for attending meetings, serving on at least two (2) committees, connecting with the Learning Strategist, hosting consultation/events with first year students, and responding to member inquiries amongst other tasks.

Throughout this term, I have served consistently on four (4) committees in addition to seven (7) hiring committees. I worked throughout the summer to plan events that were later run in the fall with a focus on making their content accessible to MSVU students that attend both online and in person. At the start of the school year, I had a large focus on running orientation events alongside our VP Student Life.

### Committees

HR Committee

Food Security Committee

Student Discipline Appeals Committee

Society Affairs Committee

Various Hiring Committees

## Events Hosted

Writing for Scholarships Workshop – This was a hybrid session (allowing for virtual and physical attendance) to help students identify scholarships that they can apply for and what to write when applying. Thereafter, the recording and resources were given to career services for the use of future students.

Orientation Events – In addition to being an orientation leader I ran and/or collaborated with the VP Student Life to execute the following events: Student Service Fair, Carnival Night, MSVUSU Waterfront Picnic, MSVUSU Trivia Night, Neon Party and Face Painting, MSVUSU Halifax Adventure, Traditional Gala, and the Paint-Along Art Class.

## Events Attended

Ongoing – Volleyball Cup

September 2 – MSVUSU Carnival Night

September 2 – Student Service Fair

September 2 – Orientation Registration & Team Building

September 3 – Ice Cream Social & Mount Mentor Games

September 3 – Dean & Degree Meet & Greet

September 3 – Campus Tours

September 3 – Sex, Healthy Relationships, & Sex Toy BINGO

September 4 – MSVUSU Trivia Night

September 4 – MSVUSU Waterfront Picnic

September 5 – Neon Party

September 5 – Societies and Volunteer Day

September 6 – MSVUSU Halifax Adventure

September 12 – traditional Gala

September 19 – Open Mic Night

September 20 – Queer Prom

October 3 – Crow's Karaoke

October 7 – Writing for Scholarships Workshop

## **Armaan Kush (Current)**

### **Brief Summary of Role**

As the First-Year Representative at Mount Saint Vincent University, my main goal is to represent and voice the ideas, concerns, and needs of first-year students. This position is a new and exciting opportunity for me to learn about how the Student Union operates and how we can better serve the student community. I'm still finding my footing and exploring what this role entails, but I'm excited to contribute to initiatives that make student life more engaging and inclusive.

### **Internal Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups**

Since being elected, I've been focused on learning more about the different committees and groups within the Student Union. While I haven't officially joined a specific committee yet, I've been part of conversations about upcoming projects and am getting familiar with the Union's structure and ways we can make a difference.

### **External Committees/Caucuses/Working Groups**

At this point, I haven't been involved in any external committees, but I'm looking forward to exploring those opportunities as I settle into my role. Building connections with groups outside the Union is something I'm eager to dive into soon.

### **Diwali Celebration**

I supported Jasmeet Singh, the Vice President of Communications, with decorations and event setup. From helping arrange materials to making sure the venue looked welcoming and festive, I was happy to

contribute to making the event a success. It gave me a hands-on understanding of how much planning and teamwork goes into creating a memorable experience for students.



## Gender Advocacy Representative - Juliana Fanning

Hello everyone! My name is Juliana Fanning (She/Her), a third-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 from May 1<sup>st</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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

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

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

- Drive-In Movie Night (Volunteer/Participant – September 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Student Services Fair (Volunteer – September 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- MSVU BBQ & Orientation Kickoff (Participant – September 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Refreshments & Relax (Participant – September 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Night Carnival (Participant – September 2<sup>nd</sup>)

- Mount Mentor Ice Cream Social (Participant – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Academic Welcome Lunch (Participant – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Healthy Relationships & Sex Toy Bingo (Participant – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Face Painting (Participant – September 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Neon Party (Participant – September 5<sup>th</sup>)
- 7 Bays Bouldering (Participant – September 7<sup>th</sup>)
- Lab Coat Tie Dye (Organized – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Open Mic Night (Participant – September 26<sup>th</sup>)
- PAWS Room (Participant – October 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Crow's Karaoke (Participant – October 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Concert P'tit Belliveau - French Society (Participant – October 11<sup>th</sup>)
- The Jumpoff (Participant – October 17<sup>th</sup>)
- FNS Fall Valley Trip (Participant – October 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Mocktail & Movie Night (Participant – October 21<sup>th</sup>)
- Potluck in the Garden (Participant – October 23<sup>th</sup>)
- Shrinky Dinks Party (Participant – October 23<sup>th</sup>)
- Spooky Saturday (Volunteer/Participant – October 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Grandma's Night in (Participant – November 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Thrift & Sip (Participant – November 6<sup>th</sup>)

**Other Projects include:**

Creating a Brochure for on campus gender-affirming care supports that are available for students

Outside of council, I'm the Vice President of Communications for the science society, where I

manage our social media and assist in event planning. I also serve as a CTRA in the Residence Life team. These roles have allowed me to connect with other students and build a strong community. I'm grateful for your support and encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, ideas, or if you just want a safe space to talk, you can contact me at [sugenderrep@msvu.ca](mailto:sugenderrep@msvu.ca).

## **Mature Representative - Anu Damodaran**

### **MSVUSU SRC Meetings**

From July till now, I have attended every meeting, a few online and the other in person.

### **Meeting with MSVUSU President**

When I was appointed as the Mature student representative, I met with the President to discuss the plans for the term. Subsequently, during one of the SRC meetings, we agreed to conduct a Financial Planning workshop for mature students along with the Graduate fair event on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mature Students Orientation Event**

I attended this event which was held in the Rook pub in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September, there were only 5 or 6 students who attended the event.

### **VP Research and Graduate Affairs**

I initially met with the VP of Research and Graduate Affairs to plan the event in October. I contacted the Business and Tourism administrative assistant to invite any faculty interested in delivering a presentation. Professor Mohammad Siddique expressed his interest in the workshop. I also contacted our CFO Nola. She was also interested in presenting if Mohammad Siddique was unavailable.

Subsequently, we met to discuss the event date and title change in the first week of November.

### **Meeting with Arts Representative, BIPOC representative and MSVU President**

We discussed ideas for the decolonization event planned by the Arts Representative. The event is postponed to January 2025, as it requires more discussions with faculty members from the Indigenous community and staff from the Black student's office.

### Meeting with VP Advocacy and MSVU student to discuss hybrid course options

The VP of Advocacy planned this project as a roundtable meeting to discuss hybrid options for courses in MSVU. We met several times during weekends to discuss ideas and brainstorm how we could advocate for this change request. We came up with an idea for a survey to know what students of MSVU thought of the mode of course offerings and other key questions related to the academic experience at MSVU. Posters were made and distributed to students, however, only 13 responded to the survey, and the answers were varied. The survey did not serve the purpose. I noticed that students were fearful and reluctant to complete the survey forms though MSVUSU promoted them. Later, we discussed trying a whiteboard to write your concerns in the McCain Atrium. It is still a plan in the pipeline.

### October (Fall By-elections)

I became an elected representative after the elections.

### Event on November 8

The event was cancelled because our VP of Research and Graduate Affairs had to attend a family event in her home country. It has been rescheduled as "Workshop for Mature Minds" on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### "Workshop for Mature Minds" on November 21<sup>st</sup>

The event venue and timing are soon to be finalized. I emailed Professor Mohammad to get the presentation in a pen drive before the event so it can be uploaded before the workshop.

### SRC meeting on November 29

I cannot attend the meeting because I have a pre-planned personal event to attend at the same time.

## Residence Representative - Jackson MacIntyre

Hello everyone! I'm Jackson MacIntyre (He/Him), a third-year student in a BSc in Psychology. I spent my first two years in Assisi Hall and spent the start of my third year in Westwood. As the Residence Representative my constituency is anybody who resides on residence which includes, Assisi Hall, The Birches, and Westwood. Below is my report, outlining things that I have done as the Residence representative from May 1<sup>st</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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

- Budget Committee
- Elections Committee
- Student Discipline Appeals Committee (SDAC)
- Pride Centre Manager Hiring Committee
- Administrative Assistant and Governance Secretary (AAGS) Hiring Committee
- Strategic Operations Manager (SOM) Hiring Committee

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

- Drive-In Movie Night (Orientation Leader – September 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Team-Building Games (Orientation Leader – September 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Student Services Fair (Orientation Leader – September 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Night Carnival (Orientation Leader – September 2<sup>nd</sup>)

- Campus Tours (Orientation Leader – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Mount Mentor Ice Cream Social (Orientation Leader – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Healthy Relationships & Sex Toy Bingo (Orientation Leader – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Face Painting (Orientation Leader – September 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Neon Party (Orientation Leader – September 5<sup>th</sup>)
- 7 Bays Bouldering (Orientation Leader – September 7<sup>th</sup>)
- Open Mic Night (Participant – September 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Card and Board Game Night (Organized – October 9<sup>th</sup>)
- FNS Fall Valley Trip (Participant – October 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Spooky Saturday (Volunteer/Participant – October 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Fall Volleyball Cup (Participant)

Outside of council, I'm a member of the science society where I help plan as well as volunteer at their events. I'm almost always on campus, so if you see me, usually playing card games outside of the meal hall, don't be afraid to say hello! Thank you for your continued support, and if you have any questions or need a friend, you can contact me at [suresidencerep@msvu.ca](mailto:suresidencerep@msvu.ca).



## Science Representative - Diana Hazelton

### SRC MEETINGS ATTENDED

- SRC Meeting Friday, Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### EVENTS ATTENDED

List the events that you attended. If you assisted in organizing the event or volunteered for it, specify that.

- a. Grandma's Night In – attended (11/04/2024)
- b. Thrift & Sip – attended (11/06/2024)

### OTHER INVOLVEMENT

List anything else that you have been involved with that is relevant to your positions, ex. Advocacy, working groups, etc.

- a. IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast (GWB) – planning

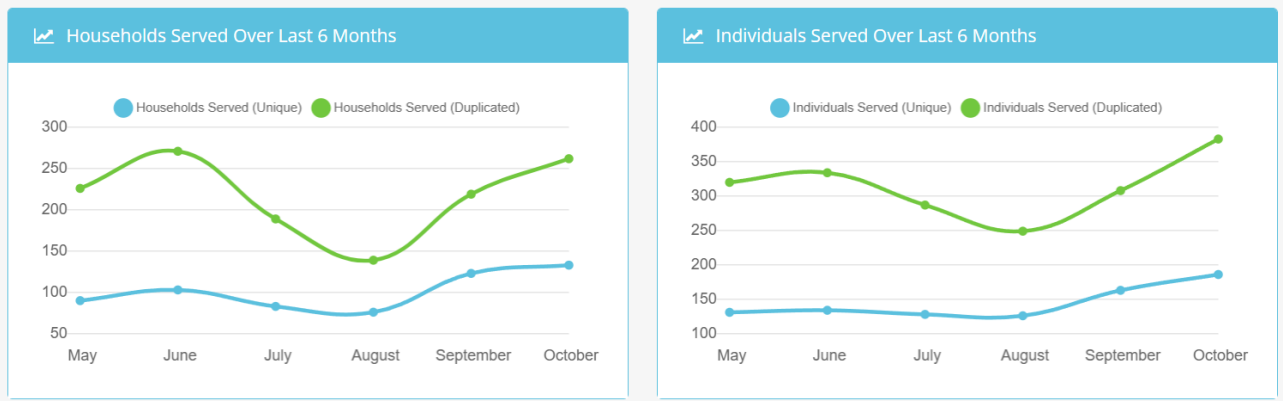
Details: Met with Dr. Alyssa Doue respecting potential collaboration with the Department of Chemistry & Physics, the SU Science Rep & the MSVU Science Society. The GWB would take place in February 2025. Details are ongoing.

## Food Bank - Devora Goldberg

I've been serving as the Food Bank Manager since February 2023, witnessing a notable increase in student visits due to various global, national, and individual circumstances.

Last year, Food Banks Canada introduced a comprehensive poverty report, revealing challenges faced by each province, rating Nova Scotia with the lowest overall grade. While poverty rises each year, there is also an increment in demand at food banks, and the MSVU SU Food Bank is not an exception.

In October, we server 133 families represented in 262 visits. We have faced a food shortage, which has caused distress among students, staff, and volunteers, but thanks to recent donations we have been able to keep up with the demand. Having this space at the Mount, helps subsidize grocery expenses and serves as a support system, allowing students to connect, share experiences, and find solidarity.



Screenshot of October 2024	
Household served (Unique)	133
Household served (Duplicated)	262
Individuals (Unique)	186
Individuals (Duplicated)	383

What has been done?

- ✓ In conjunction with the advancement team have a new channel to receive monetary donations.
- ✓ Collaborated with the Advancement office on the annual Tuesday Giving event to collect and raise economic resources from the the J & W Murphy Foundation and the community.
- ✓ Acquisition of wheeled baskets to ~~recreatesimulate~~ a supermarket ~~model~~-like experience ~~at the same time that allows to have awhile enabling~~ more accurate ~~countingmonitoring~~ of ~~theitem~~ limits.
- ✓ Active participation in Feed Nova Scotia meetings, including annual meetings and advocacy groups.
- ✓ Strengthened relationships with current and new donors (RBC, FNS, MSVU advancement, Chartwells, Senate, BOG), faculty association and new donations from anonymous sources.
- ✓ Created an Instagram logo and Social Media Volunteering Team to disseminate real-time updates.
- ✓ Collaboration with the Nutrition Department to educate Bachelor students on Food Security in Canada and Nova Scotia, as well as hands-on experience in upcycling food bank items into meals.
- ✓ We participated in a karaoke night with the French society, from where we collected donations.
- ✓ Space renovation in summer 2023, including new freezers, fridges, flooring, and lighting for a modern, open student-friendly environment.
- ✓ Implementation of Link2Feed platform by Feed Nova Scotia to electronically track student usage.
- ✓ Introduction of a numbering system to enhance organization and fairness in distributing supplies on a first-come-first-serve basis.



What is coming up?

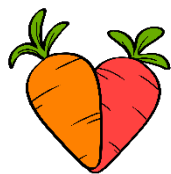
- ✓ We aim to achieve accreditation under Food Banks Canada's Standards of Excellence by next year. These standards will provide food banks around the Nation with a foundational framework of best practices, fostering ongoing enhancement, accountability, and the establishment of clear performance benchmarks.
- ✓ Holiday dinner, acknowledging major holidays of around the world (Christmas, Diwali, Eid-ul-fitr, Hanuka).
- ✓ Food safety course to our volunteers (in partnership with FNS).

Last but certainly not least, our efforts would not be possible without the invaluable assistance of dedicated volunteers who are the soul of our operations. We have spent countless hours unpacking, shopping, and sharing meaningful moments. To them my most sincere appreciation.

Thank you so much to the many people who donated money, time, clothing, and food to us this semester.

If you have any questions, you can email us at [foodbank@msvu.ca](mailto:foodbank@msvu.ca) or message us on Instagram at @msvusufb.

With love,



Devora.

## Captain Crows Café - Jacque DesLauriers

The MSVUSU soup kitchen is better known as Captain Crow's Cafe. This name helps to reduce the stigma involved in accessing free food on campus, helping students feel in control of their food choices rather than feeling like they are in receipt of charity. Students are among one of the groups of Canadians named as food insecure, and Captain Crow's Cafe offers students regular access to fresh, nutritious, and delicious food.

Since I started as soup kitchen manager in the spring, I have seen our volunteer and guest attendance steadily rising as people find out about our service and bring their friends. Because sharing food is a channel for sharing culture, we have been able to feature dishes which originate in the cultures of our volunteers and the student body at large, ranging from North Indian stews to Chinese street food to Lebanese mixed plates. We love to see the same faces week after week, as it tells us that we are having an impact on our school community.

Captain Crow's Café has gone from serving 2 dozen people each week in the spring and summer to feeding up to sixty people a week, with an average guest turnout of about 45. We have an ever-growing volunteer roster of over 40 people, though we have about 6-10 people who turn out for the cook and service each week. We offer hot lunches on Monday afternoons, and have started offering snacks on Thursday mornings, which seems to be a hit with students. In the Winter semester we may reassess how this service operates, but having a low-effort take-away service is working to test the waters.

We have also been involved in services outside these regular hours. In September we provided the food for the Pride Centre's Queer Prom, serving about 50 people rainbow platters of fruits and

veggies. We have also hosted a documentary screening, the short film “Patty vs. Patty” on the Jamaican Patty controversy in Toronto in the 1980s. This is the beginning of a screening series which focuses on food security and food sovereignty in Canada.

Captain Crow’s also has a couple of events upcoming before the end of the Fall Semester. Next Saturday, we will be offering volunteers food safety training provided by Feed Nova Scotia. This is an opportunity not only to ensure the safety of volunteers while in our kitchen, but it provides the volunteers with a nationally recognized certificate which will help them to secure employment while they finish their degrees. In the last week of November, we will be continuing our documentary series. This short docuseries is titled “The Lunchbox Dilemma” and considers the experiences of Asian-Canadian students in school cafeterias.

Next semester I would like to organize a student potluck to celebrate the cultural diversity of the student population here at the mount. This event is still in its infancy, and I would love to collaborate with cultural societies at the school to make this event as inclusive as possible. If anyone is interested in helping to plan or spread the word, please do not hesitate to reach out!

## Fountain Play Centre

The Fountain Play Center under the Mount Saint Vincent University student Union provides childcare services for Mount student-parents. It is staffed by two managers; the Programming Manager and the Operations Manager. From time to time, FPC recruits volunteers who are checked with the Child abuse registry, Criminal Record, and are trained with First Aid/CPR and AED to volunteer at the center.

The Fountain Play Center, in respect to the vision of the MSVUSU, strives to provide standard and quality childcare services to Mount student-parents through the following key areas:

Services: The Fountain Play Center managers endeavor to provide quality childcare for the children at FPC by ensuring that each child gets the attention that is needed to stay active and develop. We utilize the various toys, learning and hands on materials at the center to create activities that build cognitive and motor skill development. We are intentional with our play-based activities to help children in their social and emotional development. We encourage child independence as this helps children to advance in their skills and develop. Hence, we pay attention to the children's areas of interest to motivate and guide them to enhance their abilities.

The center is open from Monday to Thursday and occasionally, some Fridays based on need. We work to accommodate the time of Mount student-parents who would love to leave their children at the center while attending to their academic needs on campus. To provide comprehensive childcare and consistent availability, we employ the services of volunteers.

FPC remained in operation during the 2024 summer semester and provided childcare services for four regular children and some other children who used the center occasionally.

Volunteer Recruitment: Fountain Play Center recruits the services of mount student volunteers to work with us in providing adequate childcare for FPC children. During the last service fair that was held in



August 2024, FPC participated in the fair, creating awareness for volunteer sign up. This has contributed to the several number of volunteer inquiries that we receive. Currently, we have a team of dedicated and selfless volunteers who work passionately at the center. Our volunteers undergo child registry and criminal record checks. They are trained in first aid / CPR and AED. We assist them with smooth onboarding into the system by providing detailed information on how the center is operated. Keeping an open communication with the volunteers promotes the team mind amongst the staff and volunteers at the FPC. With the number of volunteers that we have now and their consistent availability, we are able to serve more Mount student-parents.

**Maintenance:** We are committed to keeping the facility safe and clean for the children, parents, and volunteers. To this effect, we ensure adequate cleaning, dusting and placement of materials at the right places. We routinely organize the facility and wash the towels and bedding in the facility, including regular sanitization of surfaces and toys. We also communicate about damage or areas that need repairs and maintenance.

**Inclusivity and Communication:** At FPC, every child is unique. We accommodate everyone irrespective of any difference. Communication with the parents helps us to work at best for the child's interest and development.

**Educational Activities:** Our educational activities are tailored based on a child's interest and the age of the children we have at the FPC. We engage in various activities like singing rhymes, scribbling, color recognition, numbers, letter sounds, identification, reading and storytelling, drawing, finger and paint sketches, water play, sand and dough play, outdoor activities, and several other activities that enhance cognitive, psychomotor and sensory development.

Statistics: Currently, we provide services for eight children, four regular parents and their children while the other four children call in occasionally. We have five regular volunteers.

Events and Meetings: We try to incorporate the seasons into class activities. However, the center has not organized any outstanding events recently. FPC regularly have open communication with volunteers and from time-to-time host meetings to deliberate the concerns of the center.

Goals: FPC has a goal to enroll more children into the center. To achieve this, we are planning on creating awareness through various media and utilizing our social media handles to have a wider coverage of the Fountain Play Center and our activities.

Finally, the Fountain Play Center is an essential unit of the MSVUSU, and we are committed to making it outstanding and efficient in providing nurturing and conducive environment for children to play, learn and develop.

## The Hub

As Hub Manager, I've enjoyed greatly my time working with such amazing people and collaborating on new ideas. Over the summer and following half of the fall semester I've worked on a variety of tasks for the following categories.

### Role-Specific Tasks:

- Edit and approve timesheets as required.
- Pricing, adding, and editing new and current products in Squarespace.
  - o Ordering and receiving new stock from various stores.
- Overseeing and supporting our three staff members.

### Hiring and Training:

- I, with the help of the hiring committee we set up, hired staff members for the Hub. 2 of them, who are new this year, started and worked together over the summer to run the front facing side of the Hub.
- Training was conducted prior to the start of the summer season and follow up training and refresher was conducted via email and teams as required.
- As required, I've been updating and editing our service's work guide to add new sections and to clarify old ones to give my staff the easiest experience while reading.

### Inventory and Sales:

- A variety of products have been added and we've been able to keep prices affordable so our students can enjoy all their favorites.

- We've seen particular success with the addition of monsters, candy bags, and more pop varieties.
- We continued our regular stock and date checks but with a few changes, we now only do stock and date checks on Fridays, I find this to be effective in keeping up with stock.
- We now also keep track of what people buy and what information they ask for at different times and days of the week. This has helped us get a better idea of when people buy and what information they need.

Support of other services:

- Displaying different posters of other services, societies and events to help give out information regarding them.
- Aiding executive as well as societies with whatever they require help with.

As a service for students, 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](mailto:suhubmanager@msvu.ca)

## Pride Centre – Sara

### Summer

#### Tasks

Since beginning my work with the Pride Centre, I have taken on the following tasks:

- Organizing events for Summer and Fall
- Holding office hours 5 days a week
- Managing the Pride Centre Instagram account doing videos, post, stories and reels.
- Organizing Queer Prom Fall

#### Services

The Pride Centre continues to offer three main services, all of which can be accessed during our office hours:

- The Queer Closet: a program that provides clothing for different gender expressions for those who require gender-affirming clothing.
- Partners with The Transformation Closet: Through this program, students and community members can access to essential items from The Transformation Closet. Items can be requested directly from the organization and picked up during office hours, providing convenient support to those in need.
- The Pride Library: a library that holds over 90 books of different genres

#### Events

The Pride Centre has held the following events:

- A paint night

The Pride Center became a welcoming space for all students, inclusive of every gender identity. It invited students to participate in different activities, providing a safe space for studying, working, and building community.

## Fall

### Tasks

During Fall, I have taken on the following tasks:

- Organizing events twice a month.
- Holding office hours 3 days per week.
- Managing the Pride Centre Instagram account.
- Managing Pride Centre volunteers, we are actively managing and recruiting Pride Center volunteers to maximize our hours of operation per day, aiming to keep the center open as much as possible to support our students.
- Organizing fundraising for Queer Prom for next year.
- Being part of the different meetings organized by Students' Union.
- Working closely with VP Advocacy.

### Services

The Pride Centre continues to offer three main services, all of which can be accessed during our office hours:

- The Queer Closet: a program that provides clothing for different gender expressions for those who require gender-affirming clothing.
- Partners with The Transformation Closet: Through this program, students and community members can access to essential items from The Transformation Closet. Items can be requested directly from the organization and picked up during office hours, providing convenient support to those in need.
- The Pride Library: a library that holds over 90 books of different genres

## Events

The Pride Centre, in collaboration with the VP of Advocacy, has organized bi-monthly events:

- Paint nights
- Game night
- Queer Prom of the year, organized with the support of the Rook Manager and Soup Kitchen Manager.

The Pride Center serves as an inclusive space for all students, offering a variety of activities to encourage participation, foster community, and provide a safe environment for studying, working, and connecting with others.

## Winter

Plans for Next Semester:

- Organize The Queer Prom: Host the event at the semester's end in collaboration with Pride Centre volunteers, the VP Advocacy, the Rook Manager, and the Soup Kitchen Manager.
- Maintain Our Services: Ensure continuity and quality of all current services.
- Enhance Social Media Presence: Continue managing and growing the Instagram account to engage and inform our community.
- Look for University Partnerships: Work more closely with university departments to expand support and resources for students.
- Expand Open Hours: Increase accessible hours with the support of volunteers.
- Student Activities: Plan additional events and initiatives to foster community and engagement.
- Integrate On-Site Counseling: Arrange for a university counselor to be available during office hours, in partnership with the VP Advocacy.
- Seek Donations and Sponsorships: Look for funding and resources to support our events and activities.



## **The Rook Café and Pub – Jenna Ryall**

### Internal Committees

- Executive Committee (non-voting member)
- Budget Committee
- Rook Hiring Committee

### External Committees

- Canadian Organization of Campus Activities for the Eastern Region
- Canadian Organization of Campus Activities (non-voting member)

### COCA Conference

I represented the MSVUSU at the June 2024 COCA conference in Windsor Ontario, alongside VP Student Life Grace MacInnis. At this conference I attended educative sessions on topics like event planning, student engagement, brand-building, and bystander intervention. I also attended artist showcases and keynote presentations. Member attendance from the Eastern region was poor, which made it hard to establish professional connections between MSVU and other nearby universities. Nonetheless, this conference helped me connect with other university service managers, the manager of the Golden X Inn, and the events manager at the UBC Campus bar. These connections helped me get advice and tips on service practices and how to improve and add services at the Rook. I was also able to share my expertise to help with their concerns.

### Staff

In August of 2024 I worked on the Rook hiring committee. We one of the largest teams the Rook has had in a while; consisting of 7 servers, 4 of which are cross-trained to work as security staff. Including management (myself), the Rook is being run by a team of 8 total staff this year. All of the Rook staff are MSVU students.

#### Hours and Services

We opened for our first service on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and proceeded to provide dry service at Orientation events for the first two weeks of the semester. Not only did the decision to open for dry service allow us to be open at the earliest possible date, but it also provided an opportunity for the training and integration of new staff at a gradual pace. Our regular hours of operation began on October 16<sup>th</sup>, and are 12pm-9pm Monday-Wednesday, and 12pm-12am on Thursday.

#### Events and Engagement

The Rook has been steadily booked for events throughout the semester. Some events I have worked on are Queer Prom 2024 (with Pride Centre), Karaoke and Movie Nights (with Rook Staff), Monster Mash (with VP Student Life), and Diwali Celebration (with VP Communications). Some events have brought in a lot of patrons, namely the Open Mic on September 26<sup>th</sup>, Tote Bag Painting on October 9<sup>th</sup>, and Diwali on November 1<sup>st</sup>. I recently worked with the Metro Thrift Bus, and brought them to the MSVU Campus, just outside the Rook, where they were stationed for the afternoon of Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup>. I received good feedback from Students and the Thrift Bus alike. I am thrilled to share that the Thrift Bus also expressed interest in working with me to make the Rook one of their monthly pop-ups. Some larger-scale events myself and VP Student Life Grace MacInnis have in the works for the Winter 2025 semester are a “Two Years” silent disco, “Cupid’s Cabaret” valentines dance, “Shamrock Shake” St. Paddy’s party, and our annual “Last Class Bash” with a retro theme. These events

are scheduled alongside some smaller-scale events—such as monthly themed bingos and themed karaoke nights.

Other than select events, the Rook is still struggling to bring in more patrons overall, but especially during the daytime. To help with this issue I would not only like to establish more promotional material for the Rook around campus—in buildings like Seton, EMF, McCain, and Evaristus—but I also suggest that we adjust our hours to open later and/or close earlier according to the patronage trends observed during the Fall 2024 Semester. Furthermore, I hope that between now and February I will have the chance to do some tabling alongside VP Student Life Grace McInnis, so that we may collect feedback and ask students what events they want to see more of at the Rook.

## Human Resources Committee

The human resource is committee is responsible for creating and maintaining human resources policy and handbooks, is responsible for some disciplinary decisions and acts to hire full time staff. This committee did not meet during the reporting period.

### Membership

Committee Role	Eligibility	Name
Chair	President	Carson Cameron
Member	Strategic Operations Manager (Ex-Officio)	-
Vice-chair	VP Communications	Jasmeet Singh
Member	VP Research & Graduate Student Affairs	Simranpreet Kaur
Member	Non-Executive Councilor	Jessie Taylor
Member	Non-Executive Councilor	Devora Goldberg
Member	Health Plan Manager (Ex- Officio)	Patti Gentile

## Constitution and Policy Planning Committee

The constitution and policy planning committee is responsible for the review and revision of governing documents. The committee is currently undertaking the review of By-law 1 – Elections and Referenda.

The committee met once over the fall term.

### Membership

Committee Role	Eligibility	Name
Chair	President	Carson Cameron
Appointed Chair	VP Communications	Jasmeet Singh
Member	VP Research and Graduate Student Affairs	Simranpreet Kaur
Member	Administrative Assistant & Governance Secretary (Ex-Officio, non-voting)	Suhnandany Goswami
Member	Non-Executive Councillor	Meghna Minocha
Member	Student at large	
Member	Student at large	

## Society Affairs Committee

The main responsibility of the society affairs committee is evaluating society funding request and approving funds. Allocation funds are 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 Schief
Member	Non-Executive Councillor	Jessie Taylor

### OVERVIEW

- Four societies have received funding from the society affairs funding committee thus far.
- With two more societies having just submitted funding requests for this school year.
- There are around 15 societies currently ratified.

#### FUNDS PER SOCIETY

Society Name	Total Funding Received
Garden Society	\$765.74
PSYC society	\$461.97
Science Society	\$600
Cultural Studies Society	\$30

## **Health Insurance Plan (HIP) Committee**

The HIP Committee is made up of 4 members. Three voting members - VP Communications, two non-executive councilors and as the health plan & payroll administrator I chair this committee as ex-officio (non-voting) member. This year the two non-executive councilors on the committee are the Education Rep & Gender Rep.

In September we met and reviewed the appeals we had received, and during our meeting we discussed the need to update the appeals process. Instead of reviewing individual circumstances we felt it was fairer to apply the same penalty to all, similar to the late fee applied to student accounts when the financial payment deadline has been missed. We agreed to have further discussions on how this new process and policy will look for future appeals and will have an update for you at the AGM next semester.



## Executive Committee and Student Executive Committee

The executive committee meets weekly or bi-weekly to coordinate the execution of day-to-day activities within the students’ union, and to plan the on-going projects and advocacy initiatives. The executive committee also oversees services generally. The student executive committee includes the student members of the executive committee with the exception of the chief financial officer. The student executive committee meets as needed to discuss student concerns and prepare items for executive committee and/or the students representative council.

### Membership

Committee Role	Eligibility	Name
Chair	President	Carson Cameron
Member	VP Advocacy and Undergraduate Affairs	August Duquette
Member	VP Communications	Jasmeet Singh
Member	VP Student Life	Grace MacInnis
Member	VP Research and Graduate Affairs	Simranpreet Kaur
Member	Chief Financial Officer	Nola Sam
Member	Strategic Operations Manager	-
Member		Suhnandany Goswami

	Administrative Assistant & Governance Secretary (Ex- Officio, nonvoting)	
Member	Rook Manager (Ex-Officio, non- voting)	Jenna Ryall
Member	Health Plan Manager (Ex Officio, non-voting)	Patti Gentile

### **Graduate Student Committee**

The Graduate Student Committee is actively engaged in fostering a supportive environment for graduate students. Meeting bi-weekly in the fall and monthly during the summer, the committee is dedicated to championing student interests and addressing their concerns through collaboration with various representatives. Additionally, the committee plays a crucial role in planning and organizing enriching events and workshops tailored specifically for graduate students.

## **Food Security Committee**

This committee has been actively working on addressing Food insecurity on campus. This Committee meets Bi-weekly to discuss the support needed for the Food Bank and Soup Kitchen. A major project currently actively discussed is the Standards of Excellence grant by Food Banks Canada to help the MSVUSU Foodbank achieve the necessary accreditation. This accreditation will enhance our Food Bank's capabilities, aligning our services with national efforts to combat hunger.