



*\* Building Our Bright  
Future*

Student Unions and  
Governance

A presentation by:

**Association of Part-Time Students**

**Graduate Students' Union**

**Scarborough Campus Students' Union**

**University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union**

**University of Toronto Students' Union**



\*Who are we?

## \* Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students

- Represent over 6,000 part-time students in fall/winter & 11,000 in summer across all campuses
- Produce “The Voice” Newspaper
- Local 97 of the Canadian Federation of Students



## \* Graduate Students' Union

- Represent over 14,000 graduate students across all campuses
- Departmental representation
- Local 19 of the Canadian Federation of Students





- Represents over 12,000 full-time & part-time students at the Mississauga Campus
- Coordinate U-Pass program with Mississauga Transit
- Local 109 of the Canadian Federation of Students

## \* **University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union**

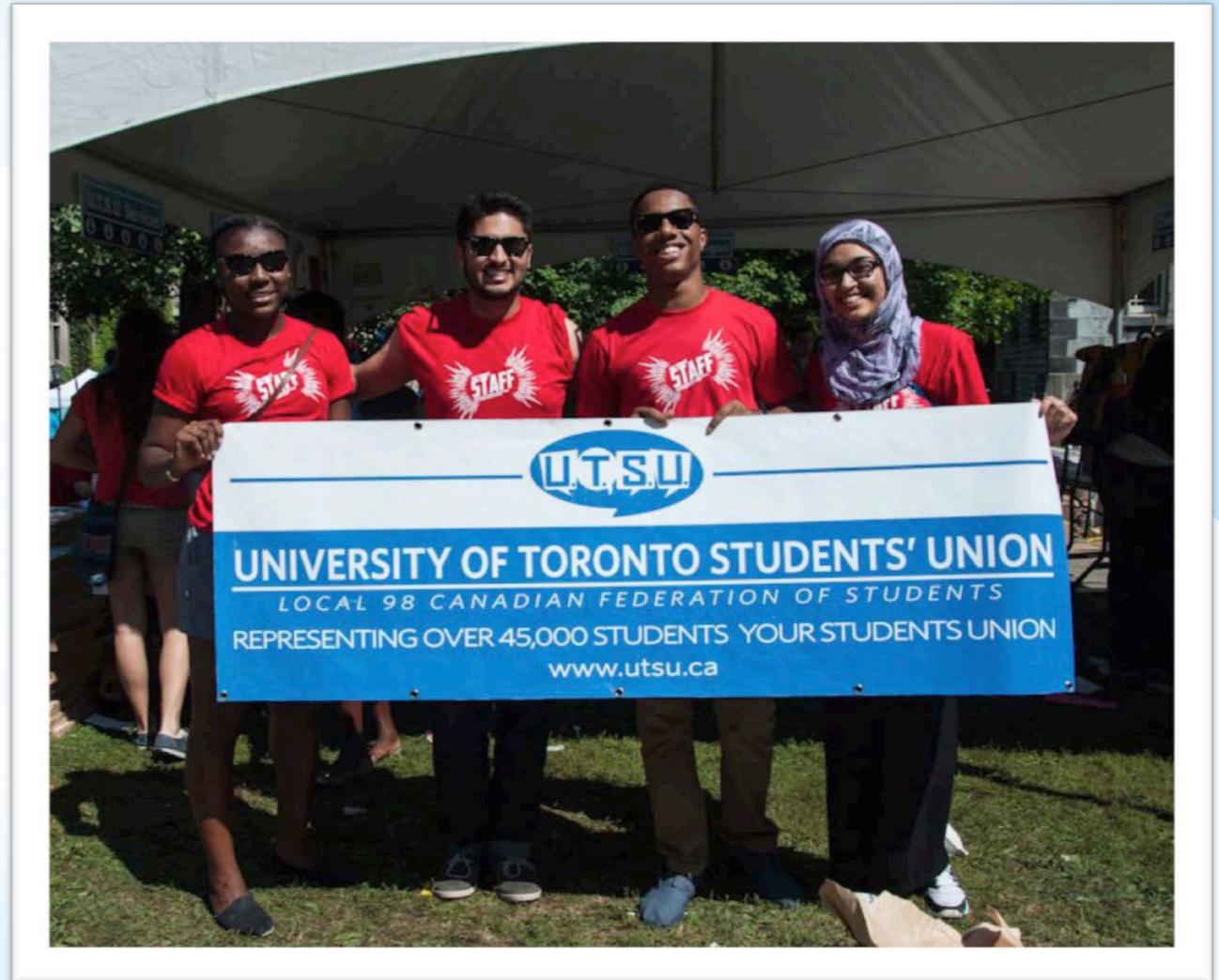
## \* Scarborough Campus Students' Union



- Represents over 10,000 full-time & part-time students at the Scarborough Campus
- Only student union in Canada to own and operate its own franchises
- Local 99 of the Canadian Federation of Students

# \* University of Toronto Students' Union

- Represents over 47,000 full-time students at the St. George and Mississauga campuses
- Supports 12 levy groups and over 500 UTSU clubs
- Local 98 of the Canadian Federation of Students



# \* Student Union Mandate

*“ensure that part-time undergraduate students have access to the full range of programs, services and resources at the University” – APUS*

*“to ensure the protection and enhancement of the graduate students’ interest, as individuals and as a group, in all spheres of activities that we deem to concern us” – GSU*

*“democratically unites and represents the diverse undergraduate student body of the University of Toronto Scarborough, to advocate on their behalf, to advance their experience” – SCSU*

*“to bring about a fundamental redistribution of power so as to permit substantially greater participation by students in making those decisions which affect their lives” – UTMSU*

*“to engage in ...the broad educational philosophy, ...discussion with municipal, provincial, and national governments, ...to make higher education accessible to all classes of Canadian society” – UTSU*

***\*Together, we work towards a system of education that is high-quality, affordable and accessible to all students.***

# \* Democratic Decision-Making



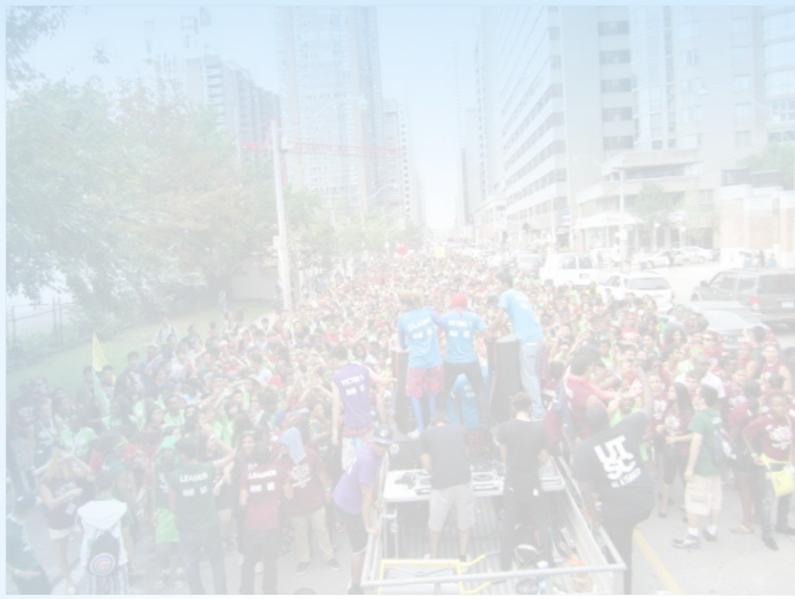
**Student Unions are membership-driven organisations.**

- Highest decision-making body: *membership*
- General members can elect Board of Directors and participate in decision-making at General Meetings
- Board of Directors provides oversight
- Ongoing consultation of students through open meetings, town halls, discussion circles



- Health & Dental Plan
- Discounted Transit Passes
- Student Centre
- Income Tax Clinics
- Dollars for Daycare
- Teaching Awards
- Clubs Services and Funding
- Course Union Funding
- Student Centre
  - Food/Restaurants
  - Office services including copying and printing
- Academic Advocacy
- Anti-Calendar
- Academic, Governance, & Scholarship Guides
- Food & Clothing Bank
- Graduation Photos
- Recreational Facilities and Intramurals
- CFS Services
  - ISIC Card
  - Ethical Bulk Purchasing
  - Student Work Abroad

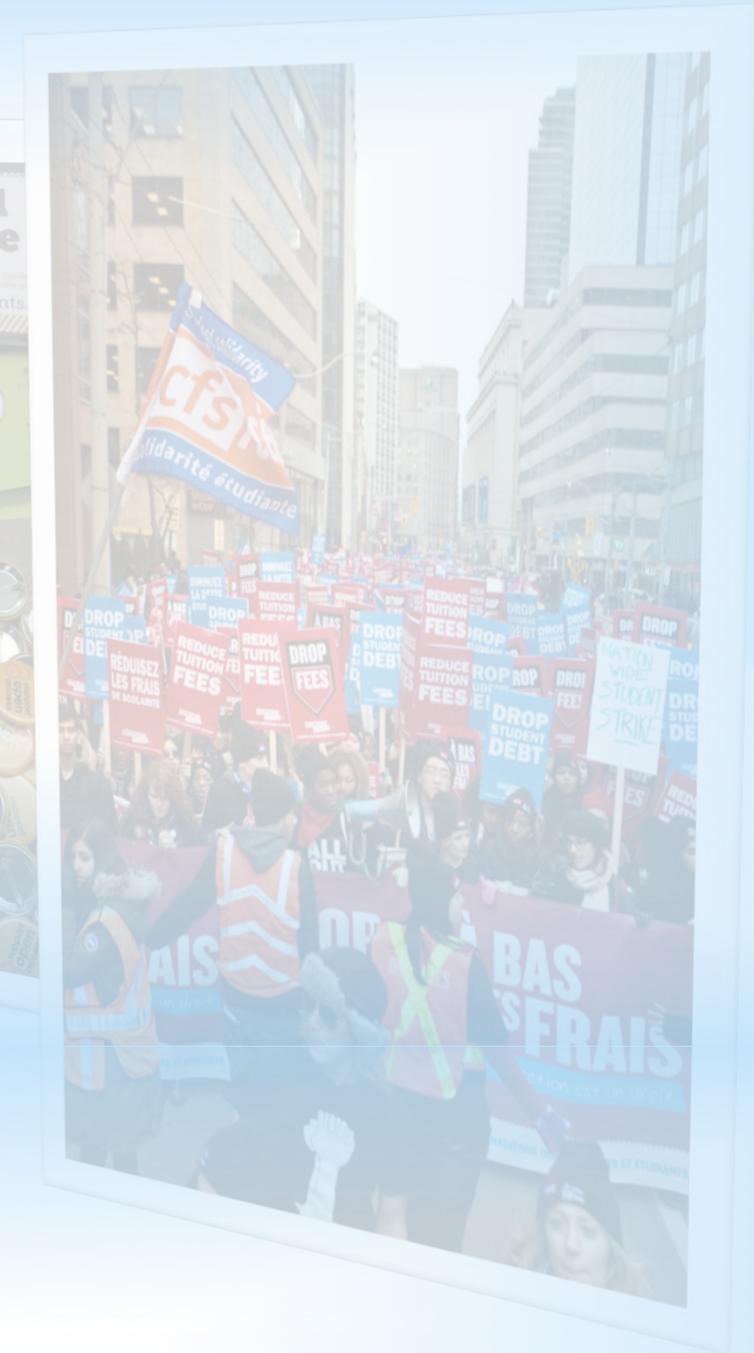
# \* Student Union Services



- Tri-Campus Orientation
  - Blue & White Spirit
- St. George Street Closure
  - Culture Show
  - Exam De-stressors
    - BBQs

# \*Student Union Events

- Campus Safety
- Sustainability
- Student Space
  - Multifaith
  - Student centre expansion
- Affordable Transit
  - TTC
  - UTSC Shuttle
  - U-Pass
- Equity and Accessibility
- International Students
- Doctoral Completion Grant
- Academic Policies



## \* Student Union Advocacy



As student union representatives, we lobby municipal, provincial and federal levels of government.

We lobby for increased access to quality social services, including education.

**\*Student Union Advocacy**

# \* How can governors, administrators, and student union representatives work together?

## *Shared Victories*

- Bottled Water-Free Campus
- Gender Neutral Washrooms
  - Wilcocks Commons
  - Expanding Student Space
- Eliminating A/V costs for clubs
  - Co-Curricular Transcript
- Maintaining Work Study Program
  - Addressing 3-Cubed Report

## *Current Challenges*

- **Access Copyright**
- **Governance Reform**
- **MTCU's 3-Cubed Report**

## \* **Access Copyright**

- Lack of Consultative Process
- Category 5 Ancillary Fees
- Fair Dealing and Alternative Pedagogical Practices
- Changes to Copyright legislation and Supreme Court ruling

\* Cancel and refund fees to students

## \* **Governance Coalition**

*Significant opportunity for governance reform*

- Shared Governance
- Adequate stakeholder representation
- Ex-officio student union representation
- Maintaining the spirit of ECC and SCC

\* Putting forward the best model possible

# \* **Governance Coalition**

## Quorum

- Minimum representation from students and faculty

## Electoral Guidelines

- Having Alumni elect their own representatives and have Agenda Committee act as Nominating Committee

## Amendments

- Put the best model forward now
- UTM and UTSC should have mechanism for amendments

## \*3-Cubed Report from MTCU

*In the report:*

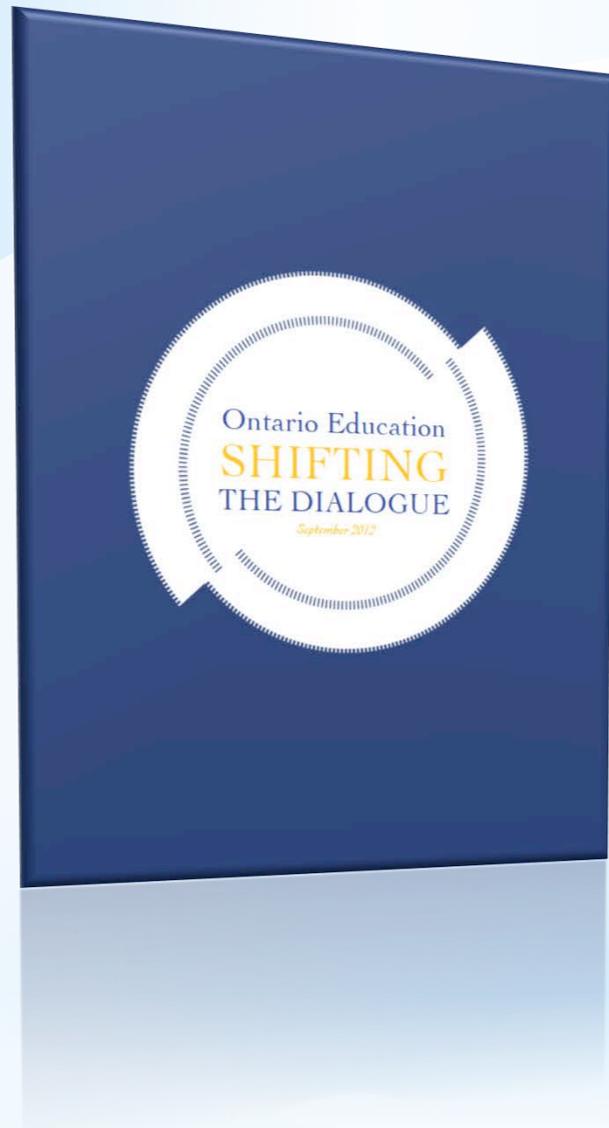
- 60% of Courses Online
- Standardized first-year courses
- Year-round Academic Year
- Three-Year Degrees
- Labour-market focused education

## \*3-Cubed Report from MTCU

*Impact on the University of Toronto:*

- Lack of funding for UofT infrastructure
- Affects quality of academic planning
- Affects quality of research
- Standardisation and institutional performance indicators

*“Doors will slam shut on UofT students.” – Provost Misak*



## \* **Shifting the Dialogue**

### *Our response:*

- Hosted town halls across all three campuses
- Ongoing lobbying Minister Glen Murray
- Developed a joint submission responding to the Ministry's policy paper

## \* **Shifting the Dialogue**

- Scope of reform
- Importance of speaking up
- Consensus across the sector and across the province
- Students, staff, faculty, administrators and governors united

# \*How Governors Can Act

1. Lead the way to better copyright practices. Pass resolution to refund Access Copyright fees to students.
2. Work alongside University stakeholders to resolve concerns about UTM and UTSC Campus Councils.
3. Challenge MTCU report and continue to work with University stakeholders to build a better vision for higher education.

