

STUDENT UNIONS & Governance

A presentation by:

**Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students' Union
Graduate Students' Union
Scarborough Campus Students' Union
University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union
University of Toronto Students' Union**

December 15, 2011 | Governing Council



WHO ARE WE?



Composition:

6 Executives

39 Directors

8 Committees, 5 Commissions

9 FT Staff, over 100 PT/casual staff

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
STUDENTS' UNION**

- Represent over 45,000 full-time students at the St. George and Mississauga Campuses**
- There are over 500 UTSU-recognised student clubs**
- Local 98 of the Canadian Federation of Students**

Composition:
5 Executives (PT)
12 Directors
Class Representative
Assembly
11 Staff (6 FT, 5 PT)



ASSOCIATION OF PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

- Represents over 6,000 part-time students in fall/winter and 11,000 in summer at all three campuses
- Produces "The Voice" Newspaper
- Local 97 of the Canadian Federation of Students



Composition:

9 Executives (PT)

5 Sub-committees and 3 Caucuses

80 Course Union Representatives

5 FT Staff, 2 PT

GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

- Represents over 14,000 graduate students at the three campuses
- Runs pub on historic site and in process of opening brand new vegan cafe
- Local 19 of the Canadian Federation of Students



Composition:

6 Executives

21 Directors

9 Ministries, 2 Committees, 1 Commission

7 FT Staff, over 70 PT Staff

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA STUDENTS'
UNION**

- Represents over 12,000 full-time and part-time students at the Mississauga Campus**
- Ran a historic Upass referendum (51% voter turn out and 98% in favour)**
- Local 109 of the Canadian Federation of Students**



Composition:
9 Executives (7 FT, 2 PT)
17 Directors
6 Standing Committees
4 Staff (FT)

SCARBOROUGH CAMPUS STUDENTS' UNION

- Represents over 10,500 full-time and part-time students at the Scarborough Campus
- only Student Union in the country to operate its own franchises
- Local 99 of the Canadian Federation of Students

STUDENT REPRESENTATION

*Together, the central students' unions represent **80,000** students at the three campuses of the University of Toronto*

- Undergraduate & graduate student representation
- Full-time & part-time students
- Mississauga, St. George and Scarborough
- Services, advocacy and events
- Registered not-for-profit corporations
- Representation at the local, provincial and national levels through the Canadian Federation of Students

Administrators



Student Representatives

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

STUDENT UNION MANDATE



Collectively, we work towards a post-secondary education system that is of high quality, affordable, and accessible to all.

DEMOCRATIC DECISION-MAKING

Union Structure

- **Highest decision-making body: general membership**
- **General members can elect Board of Directors and participate in decision-making at General Meetings**
- **Board of Directors oversee the Union**
- **Committees of Board conduct operations of the Union**
- **Role of Executive Committee**
- **General members also shape advocacy of Union through Committees, Commissions, Caucuses or Ministries**
- **Full-time and Part-time Staff complement**

DEMOCRATIC DECISION-MAKING

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

Each year, our members shape our organisations by democratically electing their representatives, setting the priorities for the year, and developing our services, campaigns and programming.

STUDENT UNION SERVICES

Services are one of the three main pillars of the Students' Union.

With the high cost of education, we provide services that help put money back into our members' pockets.



STUDENT UNION SERVICES

- Health & dental plan
- Discounted transit passes
- Student centre and office services
- Discounted entertainment tickets
- Textbook bursary grant
- Income tax clinics
- Dollars for daycare
- Teaching awards
- Clubs services
- Academic, governance and scholarship guides
- Food and clothing bank
- CFS services including ISIC, student saver discounts, ethical bulk purchasing, Student Work Abroad Program

STUDENT UNION EVENTS

Working together, we host events to improve the student experience outside of the classroom and help build a community.

- Tri-Campus Orientation
- Expression Against Oppression
- Blue & White Spirit
- Community Events





STUDENT UNION ADVOCACY

Each year, our members shape our campaigns.
Representing a diverse membership results in campaigns
on a diverse multitude of issues.

STUDENT UNION ADVOCACY

- Access to education
- Quality of education
- Academic policies
- Defending Student Rights
- Accessibility, Equity
- Campus Safety
- Sustainability
- Student space
- Affordable and Sustainable Public Transit



COLLABORATION

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

- Bottled Water – Free Campaign
- Willcocks Commons
- Access Copyright
- Public Healthcare for International Students
- Student Space



BUILDING A BETTER UNIVERSITY

Context:

- Chronic underfunding of public education by government
- Rising tuition fees and student debt
- Privatisation

Students in Ontario have the lowest per-student funding, highest tuition fees and lowest quality of education

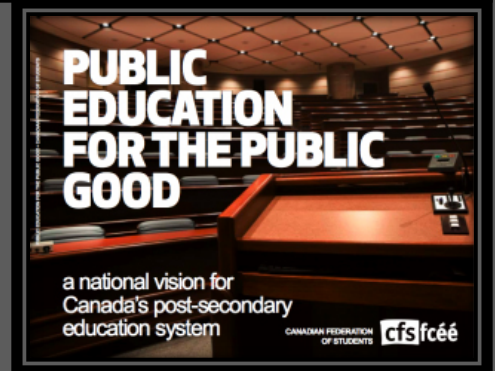
What can we do?

BUILDING A BETTER UNIVERSITY

Students envision public education as being for the **public good**.

More public funding can result in lower tuition fees, more funding for research and smaller class sizes.

- National Post-Secondary Act
- Adequate public funding to ensure access, quality, affordability
- Academic freedom



BUILDING A BETTER UNIVERSITY

February 1 National Day of Action

Students across the country will be taking to the streets to defend public education.

We will be joined by staff, faculty and members of the community.



BUILDING A BETTER UNIVERSITY

Governors and administrators can support the Day of Action by:

- 1. Providing academic accommodation to ensure students can participate in the Feb 1st Day of Action (no evaluative work)**
- 2. Endorsing the call for increased public funding, and ensuring that the government provides every student with a tuition fee reduction grant as promised**

BUILDING A BETTER UNIVERSITY

Students and Governance

- Role of governance
- Diversity and Inclusivity
- Meaningful consultation and engagement
- Student and Student Union representation

Governing Council should be about a community of people and perspectives coming together to make decisions.

STRONGER TOGETHER

By working together, we can build a better university and ensure that everyone has access to a world-class education here at the University of Toronto.

ALL OUT |

Feb 1st!