TORONTO METROPOLITAN STUDENTS UNION



# Thursday, April 25th

Annual General Meeting Report





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# Annual General Meeting Report Letter From The Executives

Thank you for your feedback throughout the year, and for your participation in all of our events and student governance. The TMSU faced many obstacles throughout the entire academic year, but with the hardwork of all the elected representatives and the support of staff, we successfully overcame all the barriers. The team worked tirelessly day and night to serve the membership; scheduled many meetings every month, hosted numerous events and successfully worked on the transformation of the organization. Due to the hard work, the team is in a position to successfully pass on the torch to the next elected representative board from May onwards and leave the TMSU in a better condition than what we got it in.

In an unprecedented short term, which lasted less than 5 months the team was able to address many issues, advocate for the students rights, and host many events to give the students a better student-life experience. We were successfully able to work with the university administration to have the prayer space open until midnight for students from the muslim community in the month of Ramadan. The members of the TMSU also attended the Shabbat dinner hosted by the Hillel student group that represents the Jewish community at the TMU. The TMSU also advocated for many other initiatives, countless students got the help for their grade appeals and the advocacy for the Good Food Center was also a success. The TMSU also hosted a mental health awareness conference in the first week of April, where many of the renown speakers were invited to raise better awareness and with the help of the conference, the students were informed about the resources available on campus to provide mental health support. Many of the students who were going through financial difficulties received help in form of grants, and the TMSU was successfully able to offer grants throughout the winter term. Overall, in all facets of life in and out of the classroom the TMSU managed to provide support to the students with the resources available.



There were many social events hosted over the last few months to provide better student-life experience to the students. The winter week of welcome was a huge success and the highlight was the homecoming event which was in collaboration with the Athletics Department. There were many open houses hosted, pub nights at the MET, and most importantly the Montreal Reading Week Trip turned out to be a huge success. The C3SVS was also successfully able to give out menstrual kits on average of 150 a month, and over 450 students a month on average visited GFC to fulfill their basic food needs.

Additionally, we had the chance to join CFS Ontario at the Provincial Lobby Week held at Queen's Park in the month of February. We advocated for the academic excellence and overall well-being of the undergraduate, graduate, International, and Indigenous Students while also raising concerns for more support to the students with disabilities through increased funding via ODSP and advocating for legislating students' rights to organize. Throughout the semester, we also got to meet the other Students' Unions; UTMSU, SCSU, Students' Society of McGill, and many others across Ontario to understand the operations of those organizations. We also had the chance to contribute to the Academic Plan from 2025 to 2030 through various consultations with the TMGSU and TMAPS.

Along with all these services and events that the TMSU hosted, recognizing that the majority of the members are on campus the TMSU offices remained open during weekdays from 10AM to 6PM. The exam de-stress kits were also given out to the students during the exam season. Furthermore, the TMSU successfully provided assistance to the students who needed help with their taxes. With the academic year now coming to an end, the TMSU is expecting to have a busy summer to offer better services to the students next year. This will also create many paid and volunteering opportunities for the students which we highly encourage everyone to keep an eye out.



TMSU Executive Members,

Nikole Dan

Aleksander Strazisar

Hetu Patel

Nadir Janjua

Patricia Doan

### **Organizational Updates**

#### **Board of Directors**

Thank you to our Interim Board of Directors serving from December 11, 2023 to April 30, 2024.

Nikole Dan, President

Aleksander Strazisar, Vice-President Operations

Hetu Patel, Vice-President Education

Patricia Doan, Vice-President Equity

Nadir Janjua, Vice-President Student Life

Andrew Ciddio, Faculty of Arts Director

Jason B. Ramsay, Faculty of Arts Director

Batool Qasim, Creative School Director

Tafara Gwata, Creative School Director

Irene Loi, Faculty of Community Services Director

Koby Biya, Faculty of Community Services Director

Ariana Zuniga, Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science Director

Hasan Tahir, Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science Director

Aneesh Katyara, Faculty of Science Director

Dania Meziani, Faculty of Science Director

Kabir Khanna, Ted Rogers School of Management Director

Angelica Baquiran, Ted Rogers School of Management Director

Fatima Sheikh, Lincoln School of Law

Victor Ufot, Lincoln School of Law

Mohammad Maaz Khan, International Student Director

Fatima Salah, Course Union Director

Asy Kasam, Student Groups Director



Below is the Board of Directors effective May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025

Nadir Janjua, PresidentPresident

Muhammad Awais, Vice-President Operations

Aneesa Masood, Vice-President Education,

Hafsa Iqbal, Vice-President Equity

Koby Biya, Vice-President Student Life

Josh Klomp, Faculty of Arts Director

Jason Ramsay, Faculty of Arts Director

Ananya Sharma, Creative School Director

Arzo Aslami, School Director

Vacant, Community Services Director

Vacant, Community Services Director

Saad Manjawala, Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science Director

Isabella Furlan, Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science Director

Faheem Iqbal, Faculty of Science Director

Sarthak Sanjay Pradhan, Faculty of Science Director

Saya Diji Pressa Anilkumar, Ted Rogers School of Management Director

Rohaan Janjua, Ted Rogers School of Management Director

Vacant, Lincoln School of Law Management

Vacant, Lincoln School of Law Management

Muhammad Raza, International Student Director

Vacant, Course Union Director

Vacant, Student Groups Director

#### **Elections**

The TMSU successfully held the 2024 General Elections for the incoming 2024-2025 Executive and Board of Directors over the months of February 12th - March 8th, 2024

The elections timeline was as follows:

- Nomination Period: February 12 at 10:00am to February 16th at 5:00pm
- Campaign Period: February 28 at 10:00am to March 8 at 5:00pm
- Voting Days: March 6 at 10:00am to March 8 at 5:00pm

Voting for the elections was conducted electronically through Simply Voting for the second time. A total of 2600 ballots were casted during the 2024 TMSU General Election. In comparison, during the Fall By-Election in 2023, a total of 1906 ballots were casted. This election period had 694 more ballots casted, leading to a 26.7%



increase in voter turnout compared to the 2023 By-Election. However, out of 38,198 students, only 2600 or 6.8% of the membership participated in the election. As always, one of TMSU's main priorities remains increasing voter turnout amongst full-time undergraduate students.

The TMSU welcomes the incoming Executives and Board of Directors for the 2024-2025 year!

#### **Executive**

President - Nadir Janjua
VP Operations - Muhammad Awais
VP Education - Aneesa Masood
VP Equity - Hafsa Iqbal
VP Student Life - Koby Biya

#### **Faculty of Arts**

Josh Klomp Jason B. Ramsay

#### The Creative School

Ananya Sharma Arzo Aslami

# Faculty of Community Services

Vacant Vacant

#### **Engineering and Architecture**

Saad Manjawala Isabella Furlan

#### **Faculty of Science**

Faheem Iqbal Sarthak Sanjay Pradhan

#### Ted Rogers School of Management

Saya Diji Pressa Anilkumar Rohaan Janjua

#### Lincoln Alexander School of Law

Vacant Vacant

#### **International Director**

Muhammad Raza

#### **Policy and Governance**

The TMSU will be implementing new changes to our Issues Based Policies and Operational Policies, these changes have already been approved by the By-Laws and Policies Committee and will be presented to the Board of Directors for ratification in the coming weeks.



The existing policies manual will be updated with any changes that were approved by the Board.

#### **Human Resources**

TMSU currently employs 14 permanent staff and approximately 30 contract student staff, mostly through the TMU Career Boost program. TMSU has applied for 27 Career Boost positions for Fall 2024/Winter 2025 semesters. We should receive confirmation on the amount of positions that have been approved by the end of April. Additionally, TMSU has again applied for student work opportunities through the Canada Summer Jobs Program for the spring and summer of 2024. We have extended all of the student workers contracts to ensure there is no disruption of services for the remainder of our fiscal year. The TMSU is seeking to hire TMU students for spring and summer 2024 opportunities. You can view all available job posting at <a href="mailto:yourtmsu.ca/jobs">yourtmsu.ca/jobs</a>.

#### **Communications**

#### **E-Newsletter**

The TMSU continues to provide the weekly e-newsletter. This is an effective messaging tool to ensure that members are aware of the events, campaigns and services of the TMSU as well as important governance updates. The TMSU is now accepting campus groups and community groups content for the newsletter. Reminders for content are sent weekly with a Friday deadline.

#### **Social Media**

The TMSU primarily functions through Instagram but has attempted to have a presence on X, Linkedin, Reddit, Tik Tok and Discord. The TMSU is launching weekly showcases for campus group events and opportunities each week. Reminders for content are sent weekly with a Thursday deadline.

#### Website

#### Introduction

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance student experiences, we have invested an immense amount of time in our website reconstruction. We want the TMSU website to be a one-stop destination where you can effortlessly find all the necessary information.



Whether it's about events, resources, or important updates, we aim to make accessing information quick and hassle-free.

#### <u>Current Improvements</u>

- 1. Rework of Website Pages:
  - Overhauled the layout and navigational structure of 90% of the website pages to enhance usability and accessibility.
  - Reduced navigation time and increased user satisfaction through a more intuitive interface.
- 2. Implementation of New Palette Guidelines:
  - Introduced a new unified colour palette that stays consistent across the website, reinforcing the organization's brand identity.
  - Improved visual appeal and readability, which has enhanced the overall user experience,
- 3. New Form and Booking Features:
  - Deployed, new user-friendly form and booking tools that streamline the process of information submission
  - Enabled real-time availability checks and automated mailing confirmations, significantly improving user-automation experience.
- 4. Enhanced Interactions and Visuals:
  - Added new animations, icons, and enhanced visuals to engage users.
  - While these new additions are important, they also make the site more attractive but also make information consumption smoother and more enjoyable.

#### **Future Enhancements**

- 1. Reworked Campus Groups, Unions, and Affiliate Group Pages:
  - Plans to rework and update the webpages for campus groups, unions, and affiliate groups to better showcase and provide more detailed information regarding contacts.
- 2. Continued Improvement on Efficiency:
  - Ongoing efforts to enhance the website's loading times and operational efficiency through backend improvements and optimized coding practices.
  - Commitment to continuous improvement and monitoring of our platforms ensures the reliability of our services.



#### **Volunteers and Street Team**

#### TMSU Street Team

The Street Team serves the TMU community by providing a personal touch to the traditional concept of marketing. TMSU Street Team achieves our mission by serving as a platform and community for TMSU Student Groups and Course Unions to promote their events and initiatives. This is achieved through word-of-mouth marketing, social media marketing, and networking events referred to as "Street Team Socials". Our goal is to promote a cohesive and collaborative environment at the TMSU, which fosters building connections and inspiring cooperation amongst community members. Members of the TMSU can request Street Team for Event Promotion or Live Event Coverage HERE. Instagram: @Streeteamtmsu Email: <a href="mailto:Streetteam.info@yourtmsu.ca">Streetteam.info@yourtmsu.ca</a>

#### **Finances**

As reported during the December 2023 Semi-Annual General Meeting, the TMSU remains in a healthy financial position. With the TMSU fiscal year coming to an end, we are preparing to close our books and get started on the annual audit. This next audit will be prepared for 2023-2024 fiscal year. The Audited Financial statements are to be completed and presented to the membership at the Fall 2024 Semi-Annual General Meeting.

This summer our incoming Board of Directors and Finance Committee will work towards the creation of the TMSU Annual Operating Budget that is to be presented to the Board by August 2024.

#### **Advocacy**

#### **Canadian Federation of Students - Provincial Lobby Week**

I had the honor of representing the Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union, Local 24, which is a part of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) at the Provincial Lobby Week. The CFS advocates for the academic excellence and well-being of all undergraduate, graduate, and part-time students.

During the 2024 Ontario Lobby Week organized by the Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario, I had the privilege of representing approximately 350,000 full-time



and part-time students across Ontario at Queen's Park. This event provided a platform to passionately advocate for improved access to post-secondary education. Our discussions centered around the crucial need for increased funding for undergraduate, Indigenous, international, and graduate students. We also emphasized the importance of enhancing support for students with disabilities through increased funding via ODSP, and highlighted the significance of legislating students' rights to organize.

Throughout the event, I engaged in meaningful conversations with influential figures such as Kristyn Wong-Tam, who represents Toronto Centre, Brian Riddell, who represents Cambridge in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and several other MPPs from various ridings. It was truly inspiring to exchange recommendations and hear their insights on how best to address the challenges faced by post-secondary students.

Furthermore, I had the privilege to join CFS ON along with other Locals from Ontario, where we connected with various Students' Unions and learned about their operations. We also had meetings with several MPPs, further advocating for improved access to post-secondary education and highlighting the need for increased funding and support for students across Ontario.

Report by VP Education, Hetu Patel

#### **Policy 60 Review**

The Student Advocacy Coordinator has been actively participating in the review of Policy 60: Academic Misconduct, and works closely with sister students' unions and with the Ombudsperson in putting forth recommendations.

#### **Services**

#### **Members' Health and Dental Plan**

#### <u>Overview</u>

All full-time members of the Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union are automatically enrolled in the TMSU's Health and Dental Plan (unless they opted out in the past), which offers coverage from September 1 to August 31 of each year. The Plan is designed to offer extended health & dental benefits coverage to students and to provide protection and security for eligible students to minimize the effects of injury or



ailments. The Plan supplements any individual health care expenses not covered by the provincial health care plan. The Health and Dental Plan enhances the basic coverage students require to stay healthy and be well for their studies.

#### New Benefits and Services - Fall 2024

The health and dental insurance is provided by Green Shield Canada. Some of the most popular benefits used by our membership include:

- 1. Prescription Drugs
- 2. Counseling Services
- 3. Chiropractic Care
- 4. Registered Massage Therapy
- 5. Dental Check-ups and Cleanings
- 6. Wisdom teeth removal
- 7. Travel Coverage

Over the past few years we have greatly improved the way students opt-out and integrated it with the University systems, so that all full-time students that had successfully opted out, will be credited on their MyServiceHub account, and going forward, the student will not be charged the health and dental fee. If a student loses their alternate coverage they used to opt into the plan, they can opt back in within 30 days of losing coverage or in the upcoming fall, by visiting the benefits plan office or our website.

TMSU continues to improve service offerings for our members. In addition to your health and dental benefits, see the additional services you have access to.

#### mywellness - Mental Health Program

We continue to offer mywellness, which is a service focused on mental health and well-being resources, which started in 2015. The information and tools available through mywellness have been developed to assist students in increasing and/or sustaining optimal mental health, so they can maintain a productive and positive lifestyle while completing their studies. The program guides students through their struggles with a self-advocating, self-empowering, and feelings to words methodology. It was designed and implemented for Canadian post-secondary students.

Mental Health Self-Assessment



The program provides students with anonymous and confidential access to a mental health assessment and takes them through a series of questions, which takes 5-10 minutes. From September 1 st , 2023 to March 31 st , 2024, 173 students completed their mental health assessment and 97 of them displayed self-harm warning screens. The student's answers generate a personalized action plan, and where applicable, a treatment plan and a follow-up program. These can be shared with their on campus physician, counselor or family physician, simply by printing it out or sending by email, right from the responsive designed webpage. The questions have been set up to help students identify common issues like generalized anxiety and depression, but also focus on student centered issues like adjustment disorder, eating disorders, and sleeping disorders. Students can also access the Toolbox items, barrier-free, and instantly have resources at their fingertips; such as tools for stress reduction and for managing your symptoms.

#### Financial Wellness

Everyone needs financial coaching and educational instruction. KOFE provides students with knowledge of financial education through various online and in-person supports that you need to take control of your finances and feel more empowered. KOFE webinars are occurred for this reason and students are given financial education as well as provided tools that can help them such as financial publications and budgeting calculators.

#### Online Video Counseling

Online counseling is also available directly through mywellness, which helps students to access certified counselors at times that are convenient to students, such as evenings and weekends. It is much more affordable than traditional methods and we believe fits well with the schedule of many students.

From September 1 st , 2023 – March 31 st , 2024, 139 students completed their online counseling registration. For the same date range 372 Online Video Counseling sessions were completed through the mywellness platform with a satisfaction rate of 91%. Out of these sessions, 15.56% were on a weekend and 27.7% were completed between 5pm-Midnight. TMSU students can access 3-hours of free counseling through mywellness.

Legal Support - myLegalPlan



mylegalplan was built to address student concerns around the anxieties and financial pressure of pursuing legal action. It is a unique and custom solution for post-secondary students across Canada. Similar to mywellnessplan, mylegalplan provides a hub where students have access to a legal network of qualified and experienced lawyers from across the country. Students who are already enrolled in the TMSU health plan can get legal funding of \$3,250 to start legal consultation by the plan's national network of lawyers for legal advice and representation for any kind of Civil law related issue.

#### Marketing and Awareness Campaigns

To ensure that students are well supported and well informed about the Plan's service, outreach was conducted via mass emails to the membership along with social media campaigns and successful tabling sessions throughout the year. The marketing campaigns not only encouraged students to use the plan but also informed them of their ability to opt out if they have additional coverage by the deadline date.





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#### **Academic Advocacy**

The Academic Advocacy office works to represent and support students in a variety of issues including Grade and Standing Appeals, Fee Appeals, Retroactive Withdrawal Requests, Non-academic Misconduct and Academic Misconduct suspicions. These accusations can range from cheating on an exam, to plagiarism, to breaking the non-academic conduct rules (i.e. smoking indoors). Our Academic Advocates can provide advice, refer you to resources, help you draft your appeals, and even accompany students to disciplinary hearings and advocate on your behalf.

Below are the statistics of who accessed our academic advocacy resources from January 2024 - March 2024.

Total number of students supported: 270+

Standing/Grade appeals: 51.6%

Misconduct appeals: 32%

Other Academic Issues: 9.8%

Retroactive Withdrawal Requests: 2.7%

Fee Appeals: 2.7%

Non-academic misconduct issue: 0.8%

Time Span Extension Requests 0.4%

The TMSU collaborated with the Toronto Metropolitan Association of Part-time Students, Toronto Metropolitan Graduate Students' Union, Fresh Start Program and Ombuds Office on workshops on "How to Write Strong Appeal Letters" and "What are my Options?"

#### **Legal Clinic**

The legal service is operated by Bill Reid, our in-house lawyer. Bill is accessible daily via email, and also meets virtually or in person when appropriate. Students are able to receive advice and assistance regarding a wide range of legal issues.

Over the course of the winter semester, Bill has served close to 200 TMSU members, most frequently with respect to the following areas of law.



Housing, approximately 25%: Students often find that their landlords don't maintain rented premises as they should, or that they attempt to increase the rent or evict them unlawfully. Bill helps students to resolve such issues, including helping them to draft correspondence with their landlords and to properly complete Landlord and Tenant Board forms. To a lesser extent, students also experience conflicts with roommates and with neighbours, and sometimes they just need information so that they understand their own responsibilities more clearly.

Family law, approximately 15%: Many students are in relationships, and/or have children, and experience challenges such as separation or abuse. As a first step, they usually need information about their rights. However, Bill also helps them to communicate and negotiate with other parties, and if necessary to complete family court forms.

Employment law, approximately 15%: Because so many students work while attending school, they also experience violation of their workplace rights, and to a lesser extent workplace injuries. Bill also helps them to understand and negotiate employment agreements.

Other civil matters, approximately 10%: Students are sometimes injured in motor vehicle accidents, or in accidental falls, and the legal service helps them to understand their rights and to negotiate appropriate compensation. Students also sometimes lend money to others, or are lent money, and when such debts aren't repaid, Bill helps them to complete small claims court forms, to negotiate settlements whenever possible, and to navigate the various stages of the court system.

Ontario Student Assistance Program, approximately 15%: Students who qualify to receive OSAP grants or loans are often required to provide sworn affidavits to prove aspects of their personal situations for which they don't have other evidence. Bill drafts and notarizes a large number of such affidavits, and also assists students with other aspects of the OSAP system, such as appeals.



Other administrative matters, approximately 5%: Bill also drafts and notarizes documents for purposes other than OSAP, and assists students in dealing with government agencies, including helping them to complete applications to agencies such as the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

Criminal and Provincial Offences, approximately 5%: Students are sometimes charged with crimes, and also with provincial offences such as Highway Traffic Act offences. Bill helps them to understand their options, and depending on their respective situations, helps them to negotiate an appropriate resolution without the need for a trial, or to represent themselves at trial.

Immigration, approximately 5%: Bill cooperates with the University's International Student Support department to ensure that international students are aware of their rights and responsibilities, and where appropriate to assist them with the completion of documentation.

Corporate and Commercial Law, approximately 5%: Many students express an interest in starting a business, either while attending school or upon graduation. Bill helps them to understand the different forms that a business may take and to establish their businesses in whatever is the best way for them, and also helps them to create contracts and other documentation for use in their businesses.

#### **Emergency Grants**

The TMSU was able to issue a little over 100 emergency grants for the Winter 2024 semester.

The Board of Directors also voted to approve additional funds in the amount of \$25,000 to be put towards more emergency grants for this fiscal year.

#### **Lost & Found**

The TMSU front desk is located on the third floor of the SCC building. This is also the center for Lost and Found on campus and is operational during office hours from Monday-Friday 10 am - 6 pm. Students, Faculty, Staff, Visitors and many other people



that are on campus and have lost their valuables are able to find them through this service that TMSU offers.

If you are a student that has lost an item, and we did not receive it, we will always intake your inquiry and keep your contact information on file should your personal item be returned at a later date.

#### **Grad Photos**

The TMSU facilitates graduate photo services with Lassman Studios to provide discounted photos and free class composites. The partnership runs year round with graduates able to book appointments through the Lassman Studios website. Composites are printed in the Spring term and distributed at Spring Convocation or available at the TMSU Front Desk for free!

#### **Tax Clinic**

The Tax Clinic is a free tax filing service hosted by the TMSU as part of the Canada Revenue Agency's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. All students are welcomed to volunteer at the tax clinic, and finance background is not necessary as the CRA trains all volunteers on U-file to support students. The tax clinic ran for two weeks during tax season from April 1 to April 12, 2024 at the TMSU main office.

#### **CopyRite Printing Service**

CopyRITE is one of the few revenue generating services that the TMSU runs every year and is proudly known to be 'Student Operated and Student Owned'. This year, CopyRITE focused their efforts on partnering with external organizations to become their sole print-provider. We successfully partnered with the 'Newcomer Women's Organization', as well as continuing our partnership with 'The School of Interior Design' at the Creative School and 'CERC Migration' at TMU. CopyRITE was also able to partner with more student groups and student unions, allowing them to solidify their branding/marketing through our print services. This was done through printing their club banners and printing flyers that were used to outreach so that they could increase accessibility to more students.

As we've always said, the main goal at CopyRITE was to be the most affordable and convenient print shop for not only TMU students, but all customers in the area – and



we have successfully maintained that. Our most popular services continue to be wide format color printing during thesis conferences and printing/binding services at the end of the semester for students submitting assignments.

As of 2024, CopyRITE has had its most successful few months to date, with our average daily sales and monthly totals being the highest they've ever been.







#### **Equity Service Centres**

#### **Centre for Safer Sex and Sexual Violence Support**

csssvs@yourtmsu.ca | @safersex.tmsu | c3svs.ca

#### Sexual Assault Survivor Support Line

The Sexual Assault Survivor Support Line (SASSL) is a free, anonymous, and confidential support line for survivors (or friends of survivors) of sexual or gender based violence that gives students access to our team of peer support volunteers trained in providing judgement free support and directing them to any on- or off-campus resources they may benefit from.

SASSL continues to be run by a team of 50+ peer support volunteers, all of whom have completed the 10 hour training program. We ran one training session this semester to maintain those numbers.

Hours: 10am - Midnight; 365 days a year

#### Additional Survivor Supports

C3SVS recognizes that our chat line service doesn't meet the needs of every survivor, and therefore offers several additional survivor supports beyond SASSL.

#### These include:

- Weekly Drop-In Office Hours (Tuesday and Thursday 12-3pm)
- One-on-One Support Meetings with the C3SVS Coordinator
- Long Term Counselling Support Through the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre
- A Resource Guide With 105 Pages of Easily Searchable Local Support Services
- 30+ Regularly Updated Pamphlets/Brochures Detailing Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Survivor Experiences, Coping Strategies, and The Journey to Healing



#### **Consent Education**

The best way to reduce sexual violence is to increase consent education, so a large part of our work this year has focused on building a consent culture at TMU. This was done mainly through a Three-Pronged Approach to Education.

#### In-Person Outreach

C3SVS has worked hard to ensure as many students as possible are aware of our services and can access support if they need it. This included tabling and attending TMSU Pub Nights to talk to students about consent and give out safer sex supplies.

#### **Campaigns**

A huge part of our educational strategy was to have campaigns focused on engaging students and helping them unlearn concepts which contribute to rape culture. We did this through various major and minor campaigns:

#### Major Campaign: Better Bathrooms

Our Better Bathrooms campaign has focused on raising awareness, educating, and getting feedback on the state of the bathrooms at TMU. We are working on improving safety, accessibility, and cleanliness of the TMU bathrooms by calling for dedicated funding to improve current bathrooms and new policies to ensure future bathrooms are built with these priorities.

#### Major Campaign: Five Senses of Consent

We partnered with Health Promotions and Residence to create a unique approach to consent education. Focusing on everyday consent through examples using the five senses, this campaign aimed to educate about consent without having to focus explicitly on sex.

#### Major Campaign: Trans Wellbeing

We partnered with the Trans Collective and Tri-Mentoring Program to create the Gender-Affirming Gear Grant to ensure trans students were able to access important gender affirming gear in an equitable and safe way. We also worked to educate about what gender affirming gear is and its importance for trans students, while learning from trans students how we could best support them and reduce transphobia at TMU.



Major Campaign: 16 Days of Action

Over the 16 Days of Action we made daily posts educating students on the ways sexual violence isn't black and white. We also gave away prizes to increase student engagement and had excellent reach with students we don't usually get to speak with.

#### Consent-Themed Events

One of our top strategies for building a consent culture on campus was to have consent and equity themed programming. Here is a list of some of the events we hosted this semester.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Memorial

December 6th, 2023 | 12pm-1:30pm

For this event we partnered with several TMU partners for the annual December 6th memorial. This was a very powerful event which gave the TMU community a chance to mourn and strengthen their commitment to ending violence against women.

#### HIV 101 Workshop

January 17th, 2024 | 6pm-7:30pm

For this event we partnered with Let's Stop AIDS for an interactive workshop on reducing HIV/AIDS stigma and educating students on the realities of living with HIV.

#### Trauma-Informed Pole Dancing Lessons

February 8th, March 5th, March 7th, March 19th, March 21st, 2024 | 11am-5pm This semester we had five days of trauma-informed pole dancing lessons. We brought in a professional pole dancer to lead individual, trauma-informed empowerment pole dancing lessons throughout the day.

#### Healthy Relationships Group

Weekly on Mondays in the Winter Semester | 5pm- 6:30pm

This closed group allowed participants to meet weekly to discuss and build their relationship skills over time. The program focused on empowering participants to enforce their boundaries, and covered topics such as identifying red flags in relationships, safety in navigating breakups, and basic self defense tactics.



#### Young, Gifted, and Black Fashion Show

March 4th, 2024 | 6pm-8pm

For this event we partnered with several Equity Service Centres and TMU organizations to create a fashion show that cast a spotlight on Black Women, Black non-binary folks, and Black persons with disabilities.

#### Safer Substance Use Trivia Night

March 6th, 2024 | 6pm- 7:30pm

For this event we partnered with HPP as part of their Substance Use Week. We decreased stigma and raised awareness about the realities of substance use through trivia with fun prizes!

#### International Women's Day Marketplace

March 7th, 2024 | 11am-4pm

For this event we partnered with several Equity Service Centres to host a marketplace for woman-owned businesses. This allowed many small businesses to reach a new audience which they might not have been able to do otherwise.

#### A Chat on "Embracing Queer Sex"

March 19th, 2024 | 6pm-8pm

For this event we partnered with It Gets Better Canada to host a hybrid panel with amazing sex educators and peer activists. We talked about the realities of queer sex and queer lives at TMU and allowed students to ask questions they wouldn't be able to anywhere else.

#### Safer Sex & Menstrual Supplies

C3SVS offers all students access to safer sex supplies and menstrual health supplies. In order to ensure everyone can access these supplies in a safe and comfortable way, we offer a wide variety of products and pick-up options.

#### Product List

- External (Traditional) Condoms (20+ varieties including different sizes, brands, materials, and flavours)
- Insertive Condoms
- Dental Dams (Latex and Latex-Free)
- Lubricant (10+ varieties with different ingredients, possible allergens, and main uses)



- Menstrual Pads (4 different varieties, specific requests available)
- Tampons (3 different varieties, specific requests available)
- Menstrual Cups/ Disks/ Reusable Pads
- Pregnancy Tests
- Emergency Contraceptives
- HIV testing kits

#### Pick-Up Options

- Order Online, Pick Up Confidentially in Sealed, Unlabeled Paper Bag
- Drop By During Office Hours/ By Appointment
- Monthly Extended- Hour Menstrual Kit Pickups the First Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the Month (No Registration Required)
- Cheque Reimbursements For Emergency Products (ie Emergency Contraceptive, Pregnancy Tests)

#### **Statistics**

We are seeing an across the board increase in students utilizing our safer sex and menstrual health supply services, likely related to both increased awareness of the Centre and cost of living increases.

- Emergency Reimbursements: 30+
- Online Safer Sex and Menstrual Health Supplies Orders: 200+
- Menstrual Kit Pick-Up: Average of 150 Every Month

#### **Good Food Centre**

The Good Food Centre (GFC) provides weekly groceries for students experiencing food insecurity. Due to a lack of support, coupled with an increased demand, the TMSU's capacity to provide for non-TMSU members is decreasing. Effective March 5, 2024, the GFC only accepted TMSU fee-paying students. Part-time degree students regained access in late March after the TMSU received payment from TMAPS (part-time students' Union) to continue to support their members.

#### Operations Update

The full-time Coordinator for GFC is currently on a leave, this means that the Coordinator's responsibilities have been taken over and split by the Operations Manager and GFC student staff. The TMSU has posted to hire a full-time GFC Coordinator in the interim.



#### **Press**

During the Fall2023/Winter2024 term, the GFC has received multiple requests from journalism students from the School of Journalism as well as outside sources such as On The Record. About 5 interviews were requested from Journalism students, in which around 3 were done. The other 2 fell through due to lack of response from the students who initially reached out.

Interviews were conducted in the GFC with questions pertaining to the GFC's operations and food insecurity.

#### **Volunteers**

Anyone interested in volunteering received their orientation via Zoom or in-person one-on-one. From December 2023 to April 2024, 5 students have undergone the training session. Currently, we have 40 volunteers. As of March, the GFC only accepts TMSU and TMAPS students for our volunteer program.

A food safety training for volunteers, led by a speaker from Daily Bread, was held on March 1st, 2024. A volunteer appreciation event was held on March 15th, 2024 with food, games, and prizes for our diligent volunteers.

#### **Collaboration**

In 2024, GFC participated in the DCC Live in January and the Equity in Farmers Markets Poster Exhibition in February. In March, a talk was given in FNU101 about the GFC and food security and GFC also tabled at the Collaborative Health Event organized by Student Life Learning Support.

#### **Projects**

In December 2023, the Holiday Food Drive was held. As of February 2024, the Hunger Report is in progress. As of March 2024, Food Access Forms (FAF), a compendium containing information about food banks, community, meals, and other food help in Toronto in response to rising food insecurity, has begun. FAF is headed by one of the operations leads and several volunteers.

#### Food Supply

The GFC receives weekly food deliveries from DailyBread. GFC continues to receive donations from various community partners on campus.



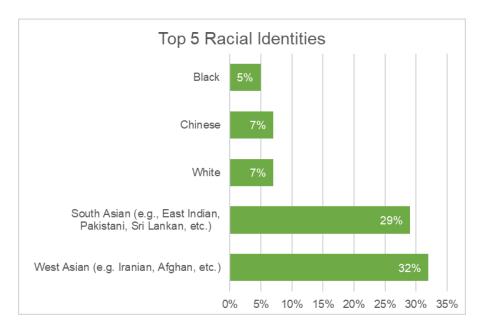
#### Foods in High Demand:

- 1. Frozen Halal Protein
- 2. Eggs
- 3. Milk: dairy and alternatives
- 4. Oatmeal: Instant, Old fashioned (rolled), and Steel cut
- 5. Flour: All-purpose and Whole wheat
- 6. Yogurt
- 7. Bread
- 8. Fresh Produce (e.g. peppers, tomatoes, herbs, eggplants, etc.)
- 9. Energy bars (e.g. nutrition bars, protein bars, granola bars, etc.)
- 10. Canned meats (e.g. tuna, salmon, sardines, SPAM, etc.)
- 11. Frozen prepared meals or frozen convenience foods
- 12. Canned soup, sauces, vegetables, and lentils

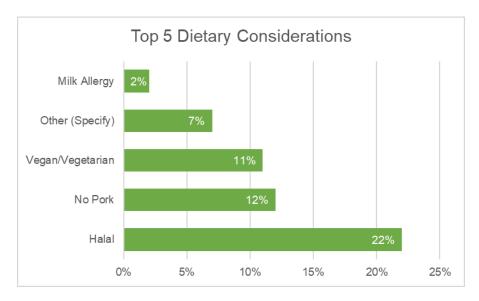
#### **Statistics**

The GFC uses Link2Feed to log members' visits. The following statistics are from Link2Feed within the reporting period and do not represent the accuracy of usage after March. The statistics do not indicate or identify a lack of need in any community. However, it is important to note that a significant amount of international students rely on the GFC for their groceries.

- Member Status During the reporting period:
  - The GFC admitted 176 new members
  - o Members used the GFC 1858 times, average of 464 visits per month
  - 494 individuals were served by the GFC including members and their dependents
- Member Demographics
  - Gender
    - 58% Women Identified
    - 40% Men Identified
    - 2% Identified as Others or Prefer not to disclose
  - Disability
    - 7% of the GFC Members identify as experiencing disability
  - Racial Identity



#### Dietary Considerations



#### **BIPOC Students' Collective**

bipoc@yourtmsu.ca | @bipoc.tmsu | SCC210

The BIPOC Students' Collective works towards community well-being and anti-racism efforts on campus. We recognize that there are many gaps in the services provided to BIPOC students on campus, which is why we actively work towards bridging those



gaps. We open up our space to students; offering support, a place to make friends, menstrual products, snacks and beverages. In addition to that, we use our strong network to share opportunities with students via Instagram or email. This term, we made a conscious effort to work with different groups to strengthen our events.

- Feb 1: Kicked off Black History Month with a Soca x Afrobeats Pub Night, in collaboration with the UBSA and CASA.
- Feb 14: Valentine's Arts and Crafts where students got to make their own candy grams and cards
- Feb 16: Hosted TMU's very first Kikiball to honour Black History Month and celebrate Black queer contributions to the ballroom scene, in collaboration with the Queerspace
- Feb 28: Vision Board Making at the Black Excellence Fashion Show (CWTP, C3SVS, Access, UBSA, BBSA)
- March 7: International Women's Day Marketplace with CWTP, C3SVS, and Trans Collective, where we uplifted women owned businesses on campus and in the community
- March 12: Heels Dance Class

#### **Centre for Women & Trans People (CWTP)**

cwtp@yourtmsu.ca | @cwtp.tmsu | SCC212

The Centre for Women and Trans People aims to provide a space on campus for students who identify as women, trans, or non-binary. Our office is open almost every day of the week to students. We offer pamphlet resources, menstrual products, safe sex products, and other complimentary items to our guests including snacks, beverages, and pins. Over the past term, we have managed a strong online presence and have contributed to the organizing of the following events:

- 1. Black History Month Fashion Show with the Access Collective Feb 28, 2024
- 2. International Women's Day Headshot Sessions Mar 4, 2024 Mar 11, 2024 and Mar 18, 2024
- International Women's Day Marketplace with the BIPOC Collective, TransCollective, and C3SVS - Mar 7, 2024



#### The Queer Space

queerspace@yourtmsu.ca | @thequeerspace.tmsu | SCC213

The Queer Space works to provide a safe space and event hub for the TMU student body that identifies as queer or trans. Both of our part time student workers hold daily office hours, manage the online presence, and work together to plan relevant and engaging events. These events include:

- 1. Taylor Swift Dance Night with TPRA, January 25th
- 2. Queer Speed Dating, February 8th
- 3. Black History Month Kiki Ball with BIPOC Collective, February 16th
- 4. Music Night with ArtSci, March 8th
- 5. Embracing Queer Sex Panel with CSSVS and Trans Collective, March 16
- 6. Queer Prom with Trans Collective and TriMentoring, March 21
- 7. Olivia Rodrigo Karaoke Party with TPRA, March 27

#### **Trans Collective**

transcollective@yourtmsu.ca | @transcollective.tmu | SCC212

The Trans Collective provides a safe space on campus for transgender, nonbinary, and genderqueer students. Our staff hosts office hours multiple times a week where students can drop-in for advice, resources, and support. We also manage our social media pages and collaborate with other centres to organize events. These events include:

- DCC Live Carnival Equity Centres and Faculty of Community Service Jan 16, 2024
  - a. Provided help with preparation, setup, execution and takedown of the event and hosted an interactive booth
- 2. Queer Speed-Dating Queer Space Feb 8, 2024
  - a. Provided help with preparation, setup, execution and takedown of event
- 3. International Women's Day Market Equity Centres Mar 7, 2024
  - a. Planned, setup, execution and takedown of a market for ~35 local artists and vendors to sell their products and services. The Trans Collective provided financial and logistical support, conducting site visits, designing the layout, and enuring the event went smoothly both for those involved and those with offices in the building where the event was held.



- 4. Embracing Queer Sex Panel C3SVS and Queer Space Mar 16, 2024
  - a. Facilitated, alongside C3SVS, the Queer Space, sex educator Eva Bloom and It Gets Better Canada, a safe space for Queer and Trans students to talk and learn about queer sex, boundaries, and navigating queerness in our day and age.
- 5. Queer Prom with TriMentoring and the Queer Space Mar 21, 2024
  - a. Provided financial support through covering performer costs, attended to help with planning, setup, execution and takedown of event

In addition to the events conducted in 2024, the Trans Collective has continued to support the Aquatics program at TMU. Through coordination with a Toronto-based gender-free swim club, Toronto Purple Fins, we have been able to, for the first time, provide Trans and gender nonconforming students with long-term swim practices and lessons instead of having them limited to 4-5 occurrences per year. Additionally, for the first time, TMU's Trans-friendly swim times are being facilitated by Trans swim instructors due to the advocacy of the Trans Collective and the collaboration with Toronto Purple Fins.

#### **SHIFT**

SHIFT Centre aims to provide a dedicated space on campus for students to take care of their mental health and wellness. SHIFT Centre is typically open to students all throughout the week from 10AM-6PM and offers a choice selection of amenities for students to take advantage of. Tea, hot chocolate, painting, coloring, drawing are all things which can be done by students at any time. In addition to these materials and supplies, SHIFT Centre also houses multiple comfortable couches and bean bags which allows students to lay back and relax in between classes.

The SHIFT Centre this year has opened itself up to booking requests from students who might like a dedicated study space for themselves and their peers. Throughout the week, our SHIFT admin staff can be found in the Centre occasionally to talk to students and provide peer support, advice, resources and support. While being a safe drop-in space on campus for students, SHIFT Centre also helped to organize and run many events centered around mental health and wellness as well as providing support to other TMSU events.



This semester, SHIFT Centre helped to organize and run the following events:

- 1. DCC Live Carnival Jan 16, 2024
  - a. While unable to table the event, SHIFT Admin staff were present at the event to provide support in the preparation and takedown of the event.
- 2. Note to Self Mindfulness Journaling Feb 5, 2024
  - a. Provided free journals and pens to students
  - Prepared a list of journaling prompts for students to use as a guide for journaling
  - c. Snacks and refreshments provided
- 3. Pawsitive Hour 2.0 Feb 26, 2024
  - a. Brought back a popular event from last semester
  - b. Collaborated with Student Access Collective
  - c. Partnered with a petting zoo company to fill SHIFT Centre with miscellaneous animals for students to view and pet.
  - d. Snacks and refreshments provided
- 4. Substances and U (Tabling Event SLC) Mar 8, 2024
  - a. Provided tabling support to show how mental health is affected by substance use
  - b. Prepared list of mental health resources within and outside of the TMU community to give to students
  - c. Handed out free swag bags to students, courtesy of TMSU
  - d. Promoted SHIFT Centre
- 5. Pancake Day! Mar 15, 2024
  - a. Prepared fresh pancakes and snacks for students



- b. Set up a table outside of the SHIFT Centre on SCC 3rd floor to hand out pancakes and snacks to students
- c. Worked with Good Food Centre to provide needed ingredients to make pancakes and hand out extra apples from the GFC.
- 6. Therapy Dogs Apr 5, 2024
  - a. Last event of the semester before exams
  - b. Held as part of the week of events leading up to the TMSU Mental Health Conference
  - c. Partnered with Corporate Canine Therapy to fill up the SHIFT Centre and 3rd Floor SCC with furry friends for students to stop by and pet.
- 7. Mental Health Conference Apr 6, 2024
  - a. SHIFT Admin staff present at conference to assist in set up, facilitating and take down of event
  - b. SHIFT staff spoke as part of the educator panel of the conference



#### **Events**

#### **Student Life and Social Events**

#### **Homecoming**

The TMSU collaborated with the Athletics Department for the annual TMSU x TMU Bold Winter Homecoming event on Friday, January 19, 2024 at the MAC. As part of our collaboration, the TMSU distributed T-shirt giveaways as well as providing other swag bag items. In addition, the TMSU gave away two \$100 gift cards. This activation was presented by the current President of the TMSU, Nikole Dan.



#### Winter Week of Welcome

This year for our annual Winter Week of Welcome, the members of TMSU successfully held outdoor events such as the outdoor Skate Night event on January 15, 2024 held at Lake Devo.

The TMSU also held the Winter Campus Group Fair on January 17, 2024 inside of the SCC 115 and Thomas lounge, where students were able to come in person and meet different student groups and be involved.

Latin Pub Night - January 18, 2024



- Pub night at the MET hosted by OLAS and focused on the Latin music genre.

#### Open House

This year, we collaborated with TMU-SC for the Open House on February 13, 2024. The Events department participated in the Open House and distributed personaliValentine's Day cards for Events that were entered into a Raffle prize. We also had an outreach table inside of the third floor of the SCC to promote the Montreal Reading Week Trip and distributed Krispy Kreme donuts.



#### Montreal Reading Week Trip 2024

This year for the Winter 2024 Events & Programming, we collaborated with TNT Tours for an exciting in-person trip to Montreal from February 21 - February 24. This fun and interactive trip allowed students to explore the vibrant city and its rich history and culture.



#### The MET Events

A summary of all of our pub night collaborations with the MET from January 18 2024 - March 15, 2024 include:

- Latin Pub Night
- Soca x Afrobeats Pub Night
- St. Patty's Pub Night
- Meli Melo



### TMSU Iftar Giveaway

This year during the holy month of Ramadan, all TMU students observing the fast are eligible to receive a complimentary halal Iftar food box, courtesy of the TMSU. These food boxes are provided to support students in their religious observance and to ensure that they have access to nutritious meals to break their fast. At the main lobby space of the SCC (Student Campus Centre) building, students can conveniently collect their Iftar boxes. In addition, this initiative aims to foster a sense of community and inclusivity within the TMSU campus, recognizing the diverse religious practices of its student body.

A summary of all of our Iftar Giveaways on behalf of the TMSU include March 22, March 25 and April 01, 2024.

In addition, the TMSU has also collaborated with FCSS in the *Nourishing Hearts* event on April 05, 2024. This initiative takes place inside of the DCC 2nd Floor, and is inclusive to all TMU Muslims and Non-Muslim students. This event includes various



student engagement activities such as free Henna booths, a vendor market and several student groups tabling under TMU

#### **Campus Groups**

The TMSU houses 124 Student Groups, 51 Course Unions and 14 Affiliate groups that revolve around a multitude of different faculties, interests, faiths/religions, cultures and more! This semester we were happy to introduce 21 new Student Groups, 1 new Course Union and 5 new Affiliate Groups to TMSU in the Winter semester. Here are the following new groups which have been added.

#### **New Student Groups**

- Ahmadiyya Muslim Women Students Association
- Beauty TMU
- Student Workers Alliance
- Urban Water Student Leadership Committee
- University Soaring Society
- Arise
- BOOSTHER
- Frontier
- Indigenous Student Association
- Levantine Student
- Women in Finance
- Boxing Club
- TMU Royalty
- Toronto Met Fashion & Film
- Engineering Tomorrow
- Rowing
- Slavic Association
- The Start Up Society
- Cheese Club

#### **New Course Unions**

• Law Students Society



### **New Affiliate Groups**

- Penny Drops
- Campus Lions Club
- Hemoglobal
- Ted Rogers Investment Council
- Toronto Metropolitan University Conservatives

#### **Grant Funding**

Student Groups are eligible to apply for up to \$3000 in grant funding per semester, with a maximum of \$5000 in Grant Funding available for the entire year (Fall and Winter semester). This Winter Semester \$62,888 was allocated to Student Groups.

Course Unions are eligible to apply for up to \$3000 in grant funding per semester, with a maximum of \$5000 in Grant Funding available for the entire year (Fall and Winter semester). This Semester \$23,273 was allocated to Course Unions.

Affiliate Groups are eligible to apply for \$2500 in grant funding per semester. This Winter Semester \$10,943 was allocated to Affiliate Groups.



## **Executive Reports**

#### President, Nikole Dan

#### December 2023 to May 2024

This term was unprecedented and filled with many challenges. I had only 4 months in total and the winter semester to implement any changes that the executives and I planned. Within these four months, there were many yearly operations of the TMSU that had to be conducted including mainly the annual elections. As the president and member of the ERC, a huge chunk of my time was invested in planning and conducting the 2024 annual elections. The general elections were a huge success and the turnout was much higher comparatively to the last few years.

My term mainly started with the winter week of welcome, for which the entire team worked extremely hard and it was a huge success. Throughout my term, I collaborated with the Athletics department on various events. I was able to successfully work with the university, mainly for the community of Muslims. During the month of Ramadan, the prayer room was kept open during all weekdays until midnight. The students who were on campus, working on their assignments and studying, were able to pray on campus. The TMSU also hosted many Iftar nights, one specifically in collaboration with the student society.

With the shortened term this year, one of the primary objectives was to update the policies and work on the bylaws of the TMSU. These are some of the changes that the students may not see directly impacting their day-to-day lives but these changes are long lasting which take time to make a difference. I also conducted various interviews for the board of directors positions, and I had an opportunity to serve on the TMMI board and the Palin Foundation.

There were many initiatives that we ran in these last few months to better support the students with their academics. The subscriptions for grammarly were given to the students at subsidized cost. The grants were also offered to the students to help them with any sort of financial emergencies. I made constant effort throughout my term to support as many students as possible with the maximum amount that could be given with the limited resources of the TMSU.

I was also able to collaborate and work with different societies across the campus. Along with the executives, I was able to work with MUES on their traditional bugpush



which had a great turn. I was able to work with the society of community services for the iftar dinner in addition to student groups like ESA and PCC with their initiatives, and lastly I worked with the law students to provide them with continuous support and create a framework to support them for the next academic year.

#### Vice-President Education, Hetu Patel

#### December 2023 to May 2024

This past five months as the Vice-President of Education at Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union has been a very significant phase of learnings and advocacy. I am really grateful for having had the opportunity of serving in this position and special thanks to our Management Staff, Full-time Staff, Part-time Staff, Board of Directors, Volunteers and especially my co-executives for constant guidance, support and all the cheers throughout my term here.

I was fortunate to have gained some amazing advocacy experience throughout my 16 months time here in TMU. Having the opportunity to of serving as the Faculty of Science Student Senator in my second and third semester, and be a part of the standing committees of Senate to being the only undergraduate student to be part of the Academic Plan Advisory Group 2025-30 in the history of TMU, I came in to this position with so many academic and well-being advocacy plans.

Starting with my term in December, we started with the Executive Trainings for the week before Christmas and for two weeks after when everyone started working in January. As an international student, I was away for the last two weeks of December and first two weeks of January, visiting my family for the holidays. However, I was working and attending meetings virtually, adjusting to the 10.30 hour time difference. I was back in the office mid-January working on the several Media requests we had received. The rest of the term was pretty smooth with our regular Executive Meetings, Board of Directors meetings, Senate and their standing committees meetings and those internal meetings all the time. Other major snippets of my time here,

#### Fall Engineering Reading Week:

We all are aware about the fact that the Engineering Students do not receive a reading week like other programs at TMU in their Fall semester. I had given a good amount of my time trying to find out the history with the Faculty, their reasons for not changing this decision, what can be the measured alternatives we can take and connecting with



professors and students to understand their point of view to statistically pitch to pass a Fall Engineering Reading Week motion at Senate. We are at the phase of planning and gaining as much information as possible to make a very detailed stand.

#### **Advocacy for the Law Students:**

I had come across some of the issues faced by the Law Students and their need for priority Academic Appeals meetings and results, better and more concentrated study areas for the Law students.

2024 Ontario Lobby Week - I represented the Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union, Local 24, a part of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), at the 2024 Ontario Lobby Week organized by CFS-Ontario. This event provided a platform to advocate for improved access to post-secondary education for approximately 350,000 full-time and part-time students across Ontario at Queen's Park. Discussions centered around the need for increased funding for undergraduate, Indigenous, international, and graduate students, as well as support for students with disabilities through increased funding via ODSP, and legislating students' rights to organize. I engaged in conversations with influential figures such as Kristyn Wong-Tam and Brian Riddell, as well as other MPPs, exchanging recommendations and insights on addressing challenges faced by post-secondary students. Additionally, I joined CFS-ON and other Locals from Ontario to connect with various Students' Unions and advocate for improved access to post-secondary education, increased funding, and support for students across Ontario.

Academic Plan Advisory Group - Consultations with Other Unions and Students throughout the semester to better understand what should be the priorities for our next five year strategy.

Students' Advocacy - Assisting Students on a regular basis with their issues such as Academic Appeals or Conflicts with Profs or other students.

Good Food Centre - I also enjoyed helping out the GFC on some Tuesdays when they have their food delivery come in and working with the amazing volunteers and GFC staff.

#### Other Periodic work:

- Board of Directors Vacant Hiring Feb 5-16
- Montreal Trip with UTMSU and SCSU Feb 21-24



- Ontario Lobby Week Feb 25-28
- New Board Elections Mar 1 Mar 8
- Multifaith Shabbat Dinner March 1
- Book Launch Event for Donovan Bailey Mar 26
- Holi Event with ISA March 29
- "Confidence Boosting" Photo Studio Sessions April 2-4
- "Looking into the future" Summerfield Workshop April 4
- "Red Carpet" Event at The Revive Market April 5
- Mental Health Conference April 6

Overall, it has been an amazing term and it was great to serve and advocate for our TMSU family by working with the smaller TMSU administrative family. Understanding the short length of the term, it was difficult to do it all and we all had to prioritize our tasks, and there is so much we would want to do. However, we are currently working on the transition documents so that we can pass over all our visions to the incoming team. In this short term, my schedule has been filled with numerous meetings discussing funding for projects, service developments, internal accountability, revision of policies, and the implementation of new services.



## Vice-President Equity, Patricia Doan

#### December 2023 to May 2024

My experience in office as the Executive Vice-President of Equity, and as the Director of Engineering and Architectural Science previously, has been pleasantly fulfilling and experimental.

For some background into my 1st and 2nd year university campus involvement:

- Industrial Engineering Director for MUES [Winter 2023]
- Engineering and Architectural Science Director for TMSU [Spring Fall 2023]
- Founded The Revive Market Initiative [Fall 2023]
- Vice-President of Equity for TMSU [Winter 2024]



Figure 1: Patricia in the VP Equity Office TMSU

Aside from facilitating monthly board meetings, leading weekly executive committee meetings, and diligently attending all of my scheduled classes for my 5 engineering courses in the winter 2024 semester, I began my term by catching up with my full email



inbox. The previous VP Equity graciously facilitated me with introductions to her network of contacts and connections from her term. I was promptly greeted with ~30 new emails a week since winter break with offers of partnership and support.

As I adjusted, quickly cultivating a genuine proficiency in professional written correspondence, the emails finally slowed down and I was able to start the real work; setting the tone and direction for the organization.

- Content creation for the organization's social media (@yourtmsu on IG).
- Collaborative proposal meetings (MetRadio, various course unions and student groups, individual students, external organizations, etc) since Jan 10
- Media requests and Interviews since Jan 19
- Weekly meetings with collaborators for Mental Health Week Activations since Jan 22
- Committee discussions about the development of our services since February
- Board of Directors Vacant Hiring Feb 5 16
- 2024 Board of Directors Elections Feb 26 Mar 8



Figure 2: Networking break from Mental Health Conference (April 6, 2024)



There were a plethora of events that I attended in representation of TMSU, some with other universities, some with course unions and student groups of TMU, and some in Montreal. I feel I was able to leverage my connections to build the reputation of TMSU amongst the ~100 people each month that I connected with.

- Uoft Rotman Commerce Conference Jan 12
- Weekly meetings for Mental Health Week Activations since Jan 22
- Winter Week of Welcome TMSU Jan 15-19
- TD Economic Outlook Event with Jason Ramsey, Director Feb 8
- Student Leaders Mixer OVPS TMU with Aleks, VP Operations Feb 14
- Montreal Excursion with University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) and University of Toronto Scarborough Students' Union (SCSU) Feb 21-24
- Campus Tour and Programming Discussions with Students' Society of Mcgill University (SSMU) with Hetu Patel, VP Education Feb 22
- Multifaith Shabbat Dinner Hillel TMU with Hetu and Aleks March 1
- Holi Event with ISA and Hetu Patel, VP Education March 29
- "Confidence Boosting" Photo Studio Sessions April 2-4
- "Looking into the future" Workshop April 4
- "Red Carpet" Event at The Revive Market with Ariana Zuniga, Director April 5
- 2 Panel Discussion Mental Health Conference April 6
- GDSC Networking Conference April 12
- Arts on Bloom Gala April 12





In this time, I also hosted 4 full day events for my sustainability initiative The Revive Market. The Revive Market (@revivemrkt on IG) events have a proven record of success in fostering positive engagement and emotions from students that attend on campus. It was a privilege to represent TMSU as their Vice-President whilst hosting these events. Each time, I was able to do more than just promote sustainability practices, support small TMU businesses, endorse charitable initiatives, and push the growing platform of student buyers and sellers, but also connect with students all day about the work that we, as TMSU, does.



Figure 3: The Revive Market (April 5, 2024)





Figure 4: Experimental Y2K Photography of Abrar and Patricia by Vansh (April 3, 2024)

In February, we started planning for the Mental Health Events. On April 2-4, I launched a project to build confidence through inclusive photography for our members. I onboarded a team of 7 TMU student photographers to conduct 3 consecutive photography studio sets, bookable by individuals, groups, and in different themes like "Vogue Catalogue", "Ethereal Earthy", and "Y2K Streetwear". Special thanks to Subitsha, Vansh, Hannah, Angelene, Aviary, Pushpa, and Cheryl for making this possible.

On April 4, we hosted a "Looking into the future" workshop to engage and open up conversations about unique mental health experiences, special thanks to Kaine, IECON, and Nodalli. On April 6, we hosted a 2 panel discussion about Mental Health featuring special guests from the entertainment industry and education. Special thanks to Christian for speaking on the panel.





Figure 5: Educator Panel Discussion 1 from Mental Health Conference (April 6, 2024)





Figure 6: Celebrity Panel Discussion 2 from Mental Health Conference (April 6, 2024)

In reflection, my schedule has been filled with meetings to manage internal matters, discuss funding for projects, implement service developments, initiate internal accountability, revise specific policies, and the realization of new services. While recognizing that both the management and representative aspects of my role are undoubtedly essential, it's evident that our members directly feel the impact of the latter—planned events, programming, physical services, and so forth. As such, this aspect holds greater significance to me.

My primary aim was to enhance TMSU's reputation through my representation of the organization. Exhausting 14% more of my energy to directly engage with our membership community could have substantially extended my approximated impact. This is knowledge that I hope I can pass on to the new executive team, and they can retain for future boards.





Figure 7: "Confidence Boosting" Photo Studio Sessions Flyer



Figure 8: Red Carpet Event Flyer

Figure 9: Mental Health Conference Flyer



### Vice-President Operations, Aleksander Strazisar

No report provided

## Vice-President Student Life and Events, Nadir Janjua

The "Events" section of the report was prepared by both Nadir Janjua and the Events Coordinator. All of the VP Student Life's updates can be found in that section of the report.