

# *Report of the Executive Committee to the General Assembly of the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa*

November 14/2017

## **CAMPAIGNS** – AXEL (Sexual Violence + Mental Health)

### **Sexual Violence Campaign – Change the Culture**

#### **Objectives**

- Separate the Human Rights Office from the uOttawa President's office
- Create info cards to inform students on the reporting process of sexual violence
- Educate the University of Ottawa community about sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and stalking to raise awareness and promote a nonviolent campus community from a primary prevention approach
- To support the rights of survivors of sexual violence through the coordination and promotion of effective administrative, legal, and medical responses, including the University's policies and procedures that address these issues
- Collaborate with campus organizations and community agencies to develop, communicate, and implement strategies to prevent and eradicate sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and stalking and all forms of sexual oppression in the University of Ottawa community
- To promote data collection and research efforts to best target policy and service initiatives and actively participate in the broader academic venue.
- To ensure all students, staff, professors are trained and taught the bystander training/understand the university's 67b policy
- Have rape kits provided and distributed across campus
- Get a sexual agent/service to support sexual assault survivors
- Put more call boxes and lights on campus
- Create a yearly survey that will compile sexual assault cases and compare that with University of Ottawa's list to ensure that the numbers are the same.
- Yearly updates of sexual assault cases reported go public for all students to have access to (Freedom of Information Act) for transparency

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION

LEILA

Sexual Violence Prevention work on campus was something I have decided to focus on. This has included sitting on the President's Sexual Violence prevention committee where I have been participating in the rewriting of the universities policy and hoping for a more intersectional, deeply survivor-centric policy that is independent from the university's president's office. I also have supported the VP University Affairs and the Campaigns Department with the Sexual Violence campaigns that they are launching in November. I have also been looking into ways to begin a survivors network and hotline on campus as a means to create a safer space for survivors.

## MENTAL HEALTH

LEILA

In terms of mental health awareness and destigmatization work, I sit on the Student Wellbeing committee which has mental health as one of its many points of focus. In these conversations, some of the most important points are wait times, intersectionality in counsellors, trainings for professors and admin staff, and an accommodation policy. There is a lot left to work on in this file. However, this is one of the top priorities of the VP University Affairs and his Campaigns department. They are working on a sexual violence campaign and I am hoping to start a peer to peer counselling network on campus for students to be able to tap into as a type of alternative to our university's often lacklustre mental health resources.

## PROGRAMS

U-Pass - AXEL

U-Pass Exemption Status:

All U-PASS exemptions have been approved. Students that were denied exemptions were notified via their uOttawa e-mail.

Students must check their uOttawa statement before assuming their exemptions are approved. We encourage students to verify their uOttawa statement of account before filing a formal complaint.

Denied exemptions:

Exemptions are denied when students do not qualify for 1 of our 8 exemption options (found on the U-Pass website) or if the required supporting documentation is not submitted.

This decision is never final. A student may resubmit their exemption form and their supporting documentation if they wish.

We understand that the exemption options do not work for everyone. In our yearly discussions with OC Transpo and STO, the SFUO always tries to make exemptions and opt-ins more inclusive. These decisions must be agreed upon by all parties of the contract, hence why it is a continuous work in progress.

#### U-Pass e-mails

The U-Pass Coordinator answers all e-mails daily without any exception (weekends included). If an e-mail is left unanswered it's likely pending consultation from other parties of the U-Pass committee.

#### U-Pass rechargeable stations

The U-Pass rechargeable stations are provided by STO. Each station has a limited amount of student numbers held. When each station has reached its limit, students are put on a waiting list. When a student validates his/her card on the machine, his/her name is taken off, and a student number on the waiting list is added. Therefore, the machine validated some student's card and not others at certain times. But as of now, there are no more students on the waiting list.

#### Grace Period

Since OC Transpo and STO realized that not all students could validate their U-Pass cards on the rechargeable machines, they had a 3-week grace period where students were allowed on the busses even if their U-Pass was not validated. During this time student were encouraged to keep tapping their U-PASS card on the rechargeable machines (in hopes that they were no longer on the waiting list). Although this was a great initiative from OC Transpo and STO, delivering that information to all their bus drivers was unrealistic. Hence some students were not allowed on the bus or asked to pay because the bus drivers did not receive this information. The students, however, were not in the wrong and had the right to board upon all OC Transpo and STO busses without question.

#### U-Pass temporary cards

We are currently issuing temporary U-PASS cards from STO because our U-PASS card order has yet to come in. The temporary cards are valid until mid-November. Once we receive the U-PASS cards we will e-mail all student that have a temporary card so that they can come get their U-PASS card.

## Relevant Statistics

Maximum waiting time (U-PASS distribution): 40mn

Total number of students with U-PASS in their possession: 31,137

Total number of students that successfully used the rechargeable stations: 12,556

Total number of student that still did not pick up their pass: 3538

Total number of approved exemptions: 1057

Total number of declined exemptions: 42

PROGRAMS - Rizki (Health Plan) + Axel (U-Pass)

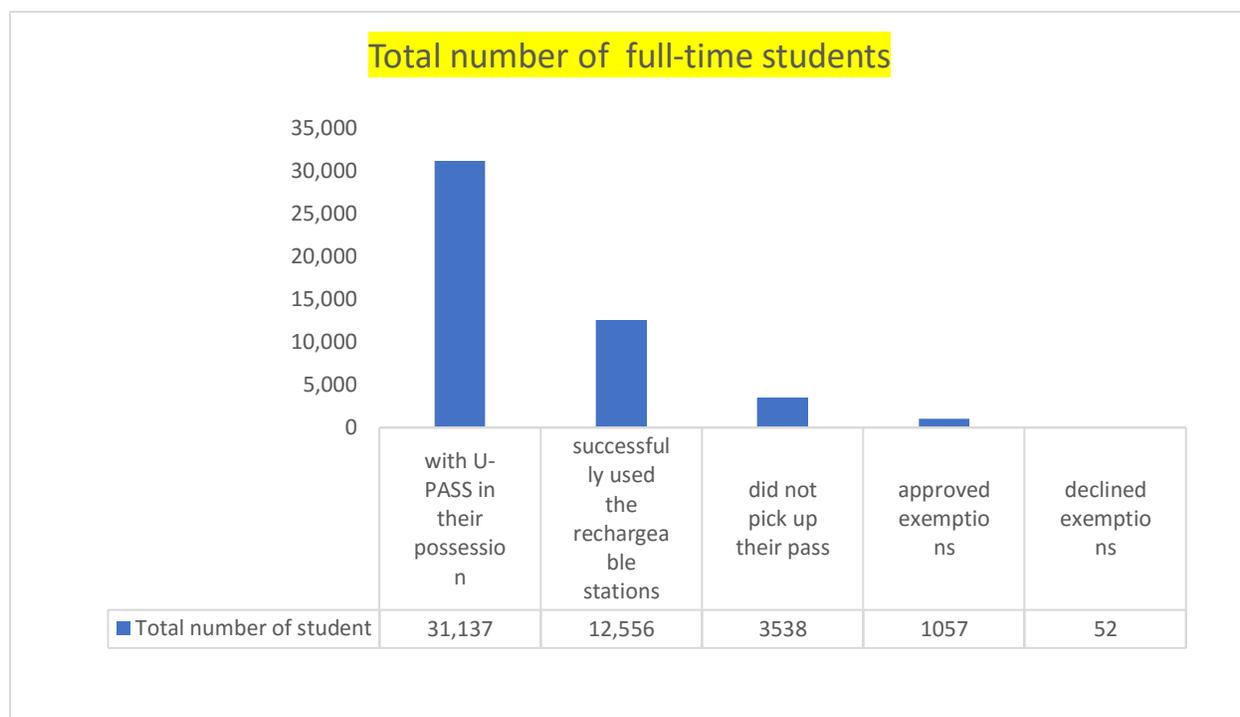
## Student of the Month Award - HADI

Every month, two students (1 from Ontario and 1 from outside Ontario) receive a scholarship of \$500 each. This scholarship is made in collaboration with uOttawa Development Services. All information regarding how to apply are posted on the SFUO website and is always included in mass emails.

## SERVICES

### Student Rights Centre (SRC) - AXEL

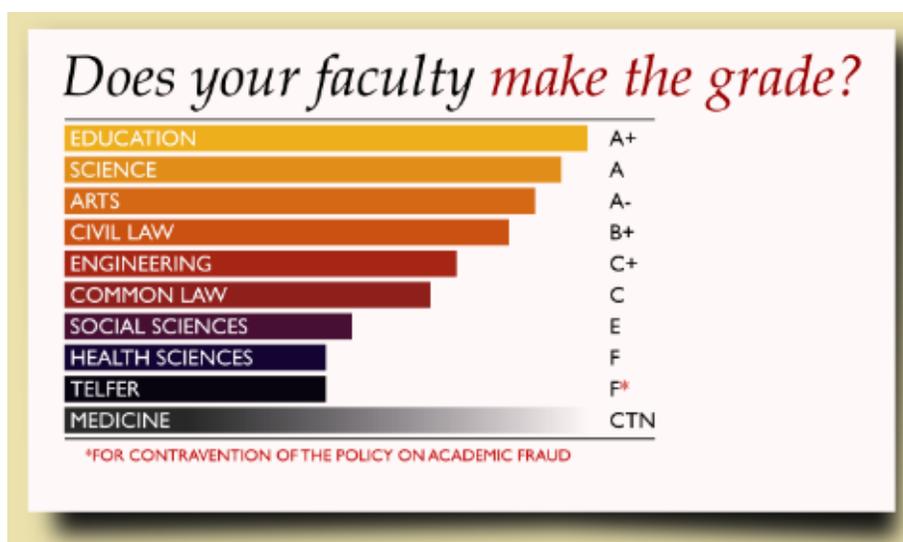
### Faculty Grade Report



The SRC has observed that each faculty (or school) of the University is quite different in the way they treat their students and their right to advocacy. The SRC awarded a grade to each faculty based on various considerations, including:

- Compliance with University regulations
- Fairness in decision making
- Communication with students and the SRC
- Openness to discussion and advocacy
- Whether reasoning is provided for decisions

Here are the results!



## UOSERT - HADI

The University of Ottawa Student Emergency Response Team (UOSERT) is a levy-funded service of SFUO that provides 24/7 emergency medical coverage to students, faculty, and visitors to the university campus. In the latest by-election, there was a referendum to add a winter levy for this service and it passed.

## LEILA

Women's Resource Centre: this year's main focus will be to continue to improve the services it provides as well as a work on the accessibility of menstrual products in bathrooms all around campus and work on improving the WeCare child care program.

International House: we hope to plan lots of events and spaces for international students to come together and get to know each other. We hope to work on a Know

your Rights Campaign as well as the regular I-week and I-Gala. We continue to put an emphasis on the international students struggle dealing with the many barriers found in the educational system from the overwhelming cost to the lack of access to services etc.

The Centre du bilinguisme: we will continue to work to making the student experience on campus one that is representative of the fact that we are on a bilingual campus and have a responsibility to francophone students who are often forgotten in many conversations on campus. We have regular 5 à 7's, good programming for le Mois de la francophonie, our tutoring sessions, and DGD's.

Pride Centre: it is continuing to be a safe space for LGBTQ2IA+ students. We are hoping to work on a campaign related to gender neutral bathrooms to address that this is part of sexual violence prevention work that the university should be doing but also that folks should not have to chose between binaries that don't represent them. The Pride centre also has a great programming to centre the most marginalized within the LGBTQ2IA+ community.

CSD: it has been working on the ASL classes being offered to students free of charge as well as looking forward to offering private swimming lessons and continues to work on accessibility issues within the University of Ottawa as it has done for years on this impressively inaccessible campus. All the services constantly are looking for student input as to the best ways to improve and cater to student needs related to the specific communities they serve.

## CLUBS

### World University Service of Canada (WUSC) - HADI

The World University Service of Canada (WUSC) is a Canadian non-profit organization dedicated to improving education, employment, and empowerment opportunities for youth around the world. Every year, the SFUO sponsors a few students for different countries, which allows them the opportunity to get education and build a better future. The SFUO works closely with the uOttawa WUSC chapter to ensure that the sponsored students receive the money allocated for them and support with any other demand.

LEILA - The biggest part of my mandate up to date has been updating and managing the club system. It began over the summer with the renewal of the clubs manual which hadn't been done in a few years. To be as fair as possible and to make sure that we had the most up to date information in rebuilding the database, we asked all clubs to re-register as new clubs. Some of the requirements were having a bilingual constitution as well as a sample budget. The sample budget was mostly for the review and approval of clubs that would be receiving subsidies but all to keep track of the finances of clubs.

After the lengthy review of the clubs manual we started looking into way to create an online clubs registration system. We did research in the best and most cost-efficient ways to make it happen. Once we chose someone worked on collecting and identifying what had been the weaknesses of the past system as well as the basic needs of students for a quick and efficient registration process with help of our web developer. There was unfortunately no time for a test period and therefore when registration started it acted as a test period. Many issues arose and myself, the financial assistant and the web developer did our best to keep up however late in the game it became evident that we would have to change things up and therefore changes were made so that registration could keep moving and we could keep accepting clubs. Now, after all of this has been being sorted out we also re-evaluated the way funding would work in order to have it out as soon as possible. Over 300 clubs are now in the system at different stages of registration and Winter registration will open on November 20th.

## EVENTS

### 101 Week - Hadi

101 Week was a smashing success. There were some ups and downs along the way but all was manageable as we pulled off one of the safest 101 Weeks in our history. The SFUO had the least number of bracelets cut and the least number for ambulances called this year due to the constitutional changes and extra safety measures taken to prevent issues of safety. We would like to take a moment to thank everyone who participated in making this week possible. Feedback will be taken to consideration for future 101 Weeks.

### Social Justice Fair - AXEL

#### Overview

Every year, the student federation host a festival that brings together philanthropic and equity based organizations from the Ottawa community. We branch off to international, equity based, solidarity focused, community centered and humanitarian organizations to table at the university as well as talk to different students about what their organization does and their vision for the community.

#### Location

This year the SFUO Social Justice Fair took place on Friday September 8th from 1-4PM at the University Square.

#### Mandate

The social justice fair's theme revolves around advocacy work happening across the city of Ottawa. This work involves activism in areas such as environmental justice,

Indigenous rights, labor solidarity, feminism, Pro-choice, anti-racism, anti-islamophobia, anti-war, queer and trans rights, disability justice, accessibility, etc.

### Turn out

20 Organizations engaged over 100 students, offered information's, volunteering opportunity, pamphlets, stickers, awareness flyers, goodies etc. Food, music and entertainment were also provided during the event.

### Town Hall – Hadi

The SFUO has initiated monthly town halls in order to better communicate with students. These spaces are meant to provide a forum for students and non-students to ask questions, express concerns, and keep in the loop with the work their student union is up to. The first town hall took place on Wednesday, October 18th, between 2pm and 4pm in the UCU Agora. The next town hall will take place on Wednesday, November 15th, between 11am and 1pm at the RGN Lobby on the second floor. The one after will be on Wednesday, December 6th, between 5pm and 7pm at the FSS Lobby on the first floor.

### Indigenous Mural – HADI

After consultation with the Indigenous community on campus, the University Centre Management Board (UCMB) has agreed to creating a mural in the UCU to highlight Indigenous rights and the importance of solidarity and allyship. This should also be a reminder to all of us that the classrooms we study in, the hallways we walk through, and the dorms we sleep in are all built on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin territory.

### Meetings with Protection Services – HADI

The SFUO has held several meetings with Protection Services to discuss several topics. One of the topics is about establishing a protocol regarding Police presence on campus during different events in order to ensure the safety of students. The other subject was regarding the Opioid Crisis and the administration of Naloxone kits. The SFUO has gotten the green light to train UOSERT member on using Nasal Sprays, but not Naloxone kits. Discussions still need to be finalized and the BOA will get the final update at the time being.

### South-End Office – HADI

The Office is ready to go, but there are some concerns with the Faculty of Engineering regarding having access by Administration to the office. This will be cleared out shortly, so that we're able to open the office as soon as possible.

## LEILA MISCELLANEOUS

I am looking forward to starting Woke Wednesdays in November as a means for students and I to come together in an interactive, non-judgemental and safe environment for them to come do so. Other than that I am always looking for ways to best serve students when it comes to various concerns and issues they may face on campus. I am also looking forward to the sexual violence committee being filled up with students and us doing the work of making sure that this campus is safer for survivors and students on it. We have also made a call out for the black history month committee to start working on the series of events that will happen during that time. It has been a very hectic and busy beginning of the year but I am excited for all that is to come.

## KATHRYN

### Social media:

The social media engagement for the Federation has massively increased. We have reached 1150 new Facebook likes, 1700 new Instagram likes, and 600 new Twitter followers in the past seven months. This is only on the main SFUO page.

The services and business pages have also become more active and have seen growth. We have linked up all of the Facebook pages for the services. That is why you see services sharing each other's posts more often now. This has been very beneficial for engagement. We also use a function called "cross-posting" to raise the view counts on videos.

We started doing frequent live streams on Facebook and Instagram. We now live stream all board meetings and GA's. We frequently live stream interviews with execs. This new procedure puts a strong emphasis on transparency.

### Website and Branding:

We remade the entire website. We have extensively worked on mobile optimization. The new website matches the new branding for the Federation. There is also a new online clubs registration portal.

We launched a blog on the main page of the SFUO website.

We launched roughly 20 new logos and all new branding. The SFUO office now matches our new branding. This makes the SFUO look a lot more professional.

We launched a new online clubs registration portal.

We created a lot of new content for the U-Pass website and launched a new form on line.

Misc:

We worked on communications for the election, including a new website and lots of social media content. The turn out was 10.12% and the referendum questions reached quorum.

We spent months creating our annual handbook/agenda. We ordered 14 000 copies of the agenda.

We did all the design and branding for 101 Week. This was under the theme "Make Your Mark".

The ELE volunteers and staff worked together on ELE marketing, in both print and digital.

Services:

Food Bank: is planning trick or eat and lots of different breakfast club days. They serve hundreds of people per month and are always recruiting volunteers.

SDC: is planning the farmers market. They also just had a farmer's market in early November. They also offer a dish lending program which is heavily used.

Bike Coop: has several technical workshops planned. They serve many students and are a heavily-used service. They run through the winter and teach students about winter biking and preparing how to prepare bikes for summer.

Foot Patrol: has recruited 50 volunteers since September and is recruiting more. They have their annual "Where's Waldo" promotional event coming up soon. They serve a large number of students with their safe walk home program.

Peer Help: they have launched their mentorship program and they have launched their phone line. Their program which matches students with tutors has been highly used. They also offer a drop-in active listening program.