



FÉUO - SFUO
FÉDÉRATION ÉTUDIANTE
de l'Université d'Ottawa
STUDENT FEDERATION
of the University of Ottawa

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OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

SFUO update following the referendum

The Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) would like to congratulate the University of Ottawa Students Union (UOSU) for their successful outcome in the referendum held by the University of Ottawa (U of O) February 8th to 11th; making them the sole undergraduate student association to be recognized by the U of O pending the negotiation of an agreement with newly elected executive members come May 2019.

In a recent email, the U of O Vice-President Academic and Provost David Graham announced that the new union would have to take into consideration the Ford Government's Student choice initiative in order to re-establish essential student services at uOttawa. This framework excludes most services currently offered by the Student Federation. The SFUO strongly urges that the new student's union propose an agreement that considers all services as essential and finds that the provincial government's announcement is a direct attack on student autonomy and resources.

Services of the SFUO were democratically voted in by students with the last vote taking place in February of 2018. Students from all walks of life use SFUO services, programs and businesses to fulfill a variety of purposes and needs. Eliminating even one of the resources and support offered would greatly impact the well-being of the students.

We will continue to work and fight to ensure that students face as little disruption within this transitional period as possible. This is our main priority.

Paige Booth, Acting President and Faduma Wais, Vice-President Social, will be meeting with the University of Ottawa Administration and have requested to meet with representatives from UOSU in the next couple of days to establish future steps, all with the intention to preserve the most of student services, businesses, programs and history that the SFUO has built on our campus for over 50 years, and in hopes of protecting the jobs of many.

The SFUO has introduced and administered the U-Pass program on campus, has facilitated and negotiated the Health and Dental plan, brought forth the University of Ottawa Student Emergency Response Team, the Food Bank, the Student Rights Center and many other essential services. The SFUO has brought us Café Alt, Agora Bookstore, 1848 student bar



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and Pivik. It has created a platform for the World University Service of Canada Refugee program, introduced a Student of the Month scholarship, welcomed clubs and Federated bodies. It has brought us 101 Week, International week, Drag shows, Black History Month, Mois de la Francophonie and so much more.

The SFUO will no longer be the sole representation for undergraduate students come May 2019. Regardless, we know the impactful work this organization has brought to this campus and that this will never be forgotten. We are grateful for the many students, Federated bodies, volunteers, clubs, and staff who have supported and participated in the work of the Federation throughout all these years.

The SFUO is bigger than itself as an organization. The SFUO is the principles and values which we are proud will remain in the hearts of the many it has served.

Thank you all for being a part of it. We wish only the best for students on this campus and student unions across the nation. The students united will never be defeated.

Best wishes,

Paige Booth, Acting President

Faduma Wais, Vice President Social