Until further notice, all meetings will be held fully online through the Microsoft Teams platform. All students are welcome to connect to the meeting in order to listen or participate; connection information to be distributed in advance through the Council mailing list or may be requested by contacting speaker@wusa.ca

ATTENDANCE

Please convey regrets to the Speaker of Students’ Council at speaker@wusa.ca.

Attendees:

- Simpson, Abigail (Abbie) (President)
- Hunte, John (Deputy Speaker)
- Gondosiswanto, Evelyn (Assistant Secretary)
- Guevara, Alana (VP Operations and Finance)
- Town, Megan (VP Education)
- Abouelnaga, Nada (VP Student Life)
- Jolicoeur-Becotte, Marie
- Fatima, Aiman
- Ghuwalewala, Vidyut
- Singh, Jaineet
- Yanez, Jairo
- Narang, Aryan
- Dragusin, Rebecca
- Manas, Suri
- Couzens, Nathanial (President, ASU)
- Yang, Eumin (Edward)
- Souza, Angela
- Hallen, Frances
- Ma, Joseph
- Lindstrom-Humphries, Delainey (President, EngSoc A)
- McGee, Ellen (President, EngSoc B)
- Yang, Edward
- Ye-Mowe, Stephanie
- Dhillon, Jaskaran
- Shi, Victoria (President, ESS)
- Schwarze, Matthew
- Dong, Catherine
• Sharma, Kanan
• Ukrani, Mahaveer Jai
• Zhu, Karl
• Wang, Yuqian (Ina) (President, MathSoc)
• Azam, M. Sikandar
• Dosen, Nick
• Macci, Sumayyah
• Parmar, Mokhash
• Roxas, Nikka (Niks) Ysabella
• Surdi, Julian (President, SciSoc)
• Chen, Jason
• Helka, Amanda Nicole
• Ahmed, Mehida
• Ikeno, Victoria (Vicky) (Designate, RASC)
• Leo, Shanelle
• Easton, Benjamin (Chair of the Board)
ORDER OF BUSINESS

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1 Preliminaries

Adding items to the agenda requires a two-thirds vote, although new items of business can still be raised without needing that vote once the entire agenda is complete.

1.1 Call to Order

Be it resolved that the Speaker calls the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgement

Pursuant to Federation Policy 50, Indigenous Engagement and Inclusivity, the Federation of Students’ Council acknowledges:

The University of Waterloo is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

1.3 Acceptance of Resignations

The following was received from Andrew Yates:

Hello WUSA Council,

I am Andrew Yates, Math Councillor. I don’t think that I am able to do my job and represent students and so I am resigning. I apologize for the trouble and hope that you guys keep up the good work.

Andrew

Be it resolved that Council accepts the resignation of Andrew Yates as Mathematics Councilor effective immediately.

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Be it resolved that Council approve the Agenda, as presented.

The Speaker assumes the motion to adopt the Agenda, as presented or amended

2 Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of a meeting are the official record of what happened at that meeting, and contain the authoritative versions of the actions taken at the meeting. If there are significant reservations about the minutes, the approval may be dispensed with, and the minutes will be returned at the subsequent meeting for approval.

Be it resolved that Council approves the minutes of the March 7, 2020 meeting, as presented.
3 REPORTS

Motions arising directly out of a report, including to adopt recommendations in the report, may be considered immediately after the report without having to wait until later in the meeting. No action is required to receive a report. If Council decides to adopt or accept a report, then it is endorsing the entire report and not just the recommendations.

3.1 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Each executive will highlight key aspects of their written reports in an oral report that lasts no longer than 2 minutes, to be followed immediately by a question period lasting no longer than 10 minutes per executive. The written reports can be found in Appendix A.

1. President (Abbie Simpson)
   (a) Presentation of Annual Plan

2. Vice President of Operations and Finance (Alana Guevara)
   (a) UPAss Survey Results

3. Vice President of Education (Megan Town)

4. Vice President of Student Life (Nada Abouelnaga)

3.2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

The Chair of the Board (Benjamin Easton) will highlight key aspects of their written report in an oral report that lasts no longer than 2 minutes, to be followed immediately by a question period lasting no longer than 10 minutes. Please see Appendix B for the written report.

3.3 REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

To be delivered orally or in writing by Councillors or the Constituency Caucus. Any questions relating to the report or any other matter may be asked following the oral report. Submitted reports can be found in Appendix C.

1. Applied Health Sciences Caucus

2. Arts Caucus

3. Engineering Caucus

4. Environment Caucus

5. Mathematics Caucus

6. Science Caucus

7. Cambridge
8. Kitchener
9. Stratford
10. St. Jerome’s
11. Renison

3.4 Officers of Council Reports
To be delivered orally. Any questions relating to the report or any other matter may be asked following the oral report.

1. Speaker (Abbie Simpson)
2. Deputy Speaker (John Hunte)
3. Secretary (Alana Guevara)

3.5 Standing Committees or Commissioners Reports
To be delivered orally or in writing by the Committee chair or Commissioner. Any questions relating to the report or any other matter may be asked following the oral report.

1. Education Advisory Committee
   (a) First reading of Policy 34 - Differential and Relative Grading (Appendix E)
   (b) First reading of Policy 70 - Carbon-Neutral Investing (Appendix E)
   
   Speaker’s Note: Citations on Policy 70 will be provided at a later date

4 General Orders
A general order is an item of business that is ordered to be taken up at a meeting. Time limits to discussions indicate the point at which the Speaker will end the discussion unless Council directs otherwise.

4.1 Alternative Student Relief during Spring Terms
Discussion on the potential for alternative more practical solutions for academic relief for students, given the prior discussion on advocating for a Spring Term Reading Week that was declined by WUSA for its lack of feasibility. What solutions exist for academic relief, such as the method implemented by some courses in the form of one week in the middle of the term, with regular classes and content modules but no assessments, which would allow students a chance to catch up on course content? Additionally, are any of these feasible alternatives worth pursuing as an advocacy goal university-wide?
Submitted By: Matthew Schwarze and Catherine Dong.
4.2 **Amendment to Procedure 10**

*Be it resolved that* Procedure 10, Committees of Students Council, is amended as attached (Appendix D).

Submitted By: *Vice President, Education Town.*

5 **New Business**

*Any Councillor may raise any item of concern during new business by proposing a motion or topic of discussion. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required for consideration of the item to proceed.*

6 **Announcements**

*Any Councillor may make an announcement not exceeding 1 minute in duration, which may be followed by up to 2 minutes of follow-up questions. No motions may be introduced from an announcement.*

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of Council is scheduled for August 9th, starting at 10:30PM, on Microsoft Teams.

7 **Adjournment**

*Be it resolved that* the Chair adjourns the meeting no later than 11:59PM.
APPENDICES
APPENDIX A - EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Abbie Simpson
President
12 July 2020
Formerly known as Federation of Students, University of Waterloo
Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association

12 July 2020

Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association
Formerly known as Federation of Students, University of Waterloo

wusa.ca
200 University Ave W, Student Life Centre, Room 1116, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1
1.0 Monthly Summary

This month was filled with many exciting meetings and opportunities to work with students. I started the month reviewing council engagement strategies with Marketing (stay tuned!) and ended the month on vacation (kind of). This month focused on the Annual Plan, Orientation planning, and our anti-Black racism strategy.

Special thank you to the Councillors who responded to my call for volunteers for a focus group. Please continue to read my emails throughout the month. I will continue to ask for Councillor support on various projects.

Some notable meetings this month include:
- I am still meeting regularly with the Undergraduate Senate caucus. We attended the Senate meeting on June 15th and asked questions about Fall term and the anti-Black racism taskforce,
- Orientation meetings to confirm fall scheduling and budget for virtual programming are ongoing,
- President’s Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability reviewed the current draft of the sustainability report.

1.1 June Meeting Follow-up

1.1.1 University Financial Statements Requests – Senator Khandakar and I sent an email to the Senate Finance Committee to review actuals for Spring 2019 and Spring 2020 terms, as requested by Council. We are still working to find answers. I will provide updates when we have more information.

1.1.2 Meeting with Counselling Services – I met with Counselling Services to discuss International Student supports and the letter COPS sent regarding anti-Black racism strategy. The following information was shared with me: (1) They are working to get more supports to students abroad, as there are many different roadblocks when it comes to providing care outside of Ontario; (2) Right now there is no waitlist. If students need support, they are able to access phone and virtual counselling. Face-to-face will resume with the reopening plan.

1.2 Societies

Last week I confirmed with the society presidents that fees will be charged in Fall Term. The following societies will not charge fees for the Fall Term: Arts Students’ Union, Environment Student Society, and Science Society.

Societies will be working with Rose (MathSoc) and Mary (EngSoc) on the reopening strategy for Fall. There are no updates at this time.

1.3 Anti-Black Racism Response and Action

I am currently coordinating with the internal working group to solidify our actions moving forward. I am working with the AVP Equity to secure our external auditor and connect with University admin to bring forward student concerns identified in our consultation/ on social media.
The University recently announced PART, the President’s anti-racism task force. At Senate, I asked about student involvement in the Committee and encouraged Feridun to consider students who are currently doing anti-racism, specifically anti-Black racism, across our campus. We learned that one of the four taskforce Chairs would be a student. Unfortunately, WUSA was not originally involved with the selection of a Committee member. I encouraged University admin to allow WUSA to submit names for the taskforce. I am working with the GSA to put forward a name for the student Chair, which may be released by our meeting. No updates on additional committee membership but I will let Council know if there are opportunities for additional student engagement.

3.0 Committee Updates

3.1 Policy and Procedures Committee
The Committee is currently working through our spreadsheet of policies and procedures. Due to limitations of some committee members, we will present first readings in the Fall Term. With the recent loss of a committee member, we are looking to reorganize some assignments and timelines.

3.2 Strategic and Long Range Planning Committee
On June 16th, the SLRPC reviewed the timeline for the Long Range Plan. The Committee suggested allowing more time for staff consultation.

3.2.1 Annual Planning
On June 30th, the Committee approved the final draft of the Annual Plan. The Board will review the plan on July 6th at 5:30 PM at our Special Meeting. After the special board meeting, I will send a final copy of the document to Council for review before our meeting. Once you receive the document, please let me know if you have any questions via email.

3.3 Committee of Presidents
COPS met on June 29th to discuss goals for the year, the societies’ manual, and society finances. COPS decided to keep the Committee as an opportunity to collaborate and share ideas to take collective actions on issue points that effect the student body. The Committee decided to create a joint communications strategy for the Fall Term to keep COVID-19 messaging consistent across the societies and WUSA.
Your Executive are proud to present this year’s annual plan.

We’ve developed six pillars to guide our work for the remainder of our term in office. It’s first important to note that while this plan showcases several of our key initiatives and focal points, we have many more goals we hope to accomplish, including more work on WUSA as an organization. Please reach out to us at exec@wusa.ca if you’d like to learn more!

In the coming months, we’ll be working hard, following up with you and communicating our progress. It’s important to us that we maintain transparency with you as we work toward accomplishing our goals. Working closely with our Associate Vice Presidents and supported by our full-time staff, we’re excited to create meaningful change that will improve your experience at the University of Waterloo.

- Abbie, Megan, Nada, Alana
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1. Institutional Racial Equity Reform

a. Equity supports and training
   - Ensure effective, meaningful equity trainings are delivered to all WUSA staff and volunteers, while holding participants’ responsible for implementing their learnings
   - Advocate and hold UWaterloo Housing and the University Colleges accountable to implement mandatory equity training for Dons

b. Holding the University (and ourselves) accountable
   - Remove barriers that marginalized groups may experience when applying for employment and urge the University to follow equitable hiring practices
   - Consult with BIPOC students with lived experience on student matters and urge the University to do the same
   - Hold the university accountable to address implicit and explicit acts of racism that occur within the institution

c. Funding equity initiatives
   - Actively fund equity initiatives on and off-campus in consultation with students
   - Create dedicated funding for equity initiatives, using a more accessible application process
2. COVID-19

a. Fiscal responsibility

- Continue to manage and monitor our cash flow throughout the changing campus environment
- Collaborate with Societies to ensure their financial health beyond the pandemic
- Deliver responsible financial budgeting to ensure the ultimate benefit to students and our UW community

b. Mental health supports

- Continue to advocate for increased counselling supports, including BIPOC counsellors and increased access for International students
- Support our student-run services offering peer-to-peer support and provide seamless, online access

c. Your academics

- Monitor course and teaching concerns via an online form
- Recommend effective teaching and assessment methods to instructors
- Advocate for a manageable workload without compromising quality
3. Student Engagement

a. Volunteer retention and member loyalty
   - Create a volunteer experience system to ensure opportunities are more rewarding
   - Prioritize a member management system to improve our engagement strategies
   - Implement WUSA-wide training for all volunteers to ensure a basic and common level of WUSA as an advocacy organization and our related operations

b. New student transition
   - Work to increase WUSA’s involvement in Orientation to improve orientation strategies and programming
   - Continue to improve our Welcome Week and Campus Life Fair to showcase value and foster a sense of belonging for new and returning students

c. Initiation of town halls
   - Hold regular Town Halls, allowing students an open-forum platform to share their concerns with Exec
   - Work alongside relevant parties to implement changes, as approved by Students’ Council
4. Evidence-Based Advocacy

a. Student research program
   - Develop and implement program where students are compensated for providing primary research data to support and guide our advocacy initiatives

b. Expanding research capacity
   - Integrate more research within our advocacy to ensure effective and timely progress
   - Gradually expand our research capacity by hiring more students and full-time staff

c. Race-based data
   - Integrate race-based data WUSA-wide to guide our racial equity advocacy
   - Urge the university to collect race-based data to guide their equity advocacy
5. Student Support and Spaces

a. Effective club support
   - Ensure the implementation of a single ‘ Clubs’ portal
   - Commit to improving locker space, availability and usage
   - Review and improve clubs’ executive training

b. Availability of student spaces
   - Follow through on council mandated review of the Fed Hall agreement
   - Investigate space agreements around campus to improve student use and value
   - Continue the implementation of the Bomber Space Lounge Plan

c. Rewarding student roles
   - Commit to training student staff to help them develop new and employable skills
   - Hire more students into rewarding roles, like student managers and our Associate Vice Presidents
6. Expanding our Network

a. Expanding WUSA services beyond the SLC
   - Extend presence of WUSA services to satellite campuses, housing and university colleges
   - Identify and address concerns from all corners of campus and satellite campuses
   - Extend and improve special events and peer support to satellite campuses

b. Alumni engagement
   - Collaborate with Alumni network to provide support to student clubs, services, and initiatives through our endowment funds

c. External advocacy
   - Continue to expand our government advocacy by building and strengthening partnerships with other student associations across Canada
Contact WUSA

Abbie Simpson,
President
Alana Guevara,
VP Operations & Finance
Nada Abouelnaga,
VP Student Life
Megan Town,
VP Education

E-mail: exec@wusa.ca

@yourwusa

Federation of Students July 12, 2020
Vice President, Operations & Finance
Council Report

Alana Guevara
July 12, 2020
1.0 Monthly Summary

Happy Summer everyone! The last month has mostly involved Covid related conversations and decisions related to Fall 2020. There are a number of projects in progress that I look forward to updating you on.

If anyone ever has any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate contact me via email (vpof@feds.ca), phone (ext. 33880), or Teams.

2.0 SLC/PAC Fee – Term Extension

The SLC/PAC Expansion has two items that require additional funding:

- **An overbudget of furniture**: The furniture chosen for the space is $216k overbudget. There were proposed cuts to accommodate the given budget, but WUSA and the GSA agreed that we were unwilling to sacrifice the quality of student spaces.
- **Skyfold Walls**: There is a multipurpose room and a multi-faith room included in the expansion. These rooms were designed to include Skyfold walls. These are “partitions” that would split the large spaces into 3 and 2 respectively so that student use could be maximized.

The referendum on the SLC/PAC Expansion fee contained the following information:

Do you support a fee of $18.00 per term for the construction of the SLC/PAC Expansion with the following conditions:

- part time students pay 30% of the fee,
- the fee will begin after completion of the project
- the fee will be indexed annually to inflation, thereafter
- any student contributions to on-going operating costs will be determined by a committee whose membership is comprised of a majority of students.

After discussion with our Board of Directors and GSA, we think it best to have the University extend the fee from the expected 23 years to 24 years to accommodate the extra funding needed. We are currently waiting for GSA to get their board approval on this option and then a motion will be brought to both Students’ Councils for a confirmation that this direction is what students are in favor of.
3.0  GRT – F2020 UPASS fee

With the uncertainty of the Fall 2020 term, the UPass Program has been an important topic for discussion. We emailed a survey to all registered students for Fall and out of 4844 responses, 48% of them plan to live in the region; 66% of whom will require the use of the UPass Program. After meeting with GRT (July 6th) and the University (July 13th), a decision on how we will be making this available to students must be made.

The likely direction will be an opt-out method on quest similar to all other fees that are currently optional. This will require that we communicate this to all students via multiple platforms to ensure those who do not need the UPass do so before paying their fees on quest. If anyone has any questions or concerns about this, I ask that you email me or speak up during my report at the next council meeting.

4.0  Bomber Space Update

On June 11th, 2020 the Planning Student Spaces and Works Committee unanimously approved the following motion for work on the architectural designs for the new Bombshelter Space Lounge.

**Be it resolved that** the Planning Student Spaces and Works Committee approves expenditure up to $51,000 from the Capital Program Fund for the Architectural Design of the Bombshelter Lounge Space.

We are very excited to be moving forward with this project and I will have more updates as the plans come in and next steps are taken.
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Number of Complete student responses for this survey

4,710 out of 32,089\(^1\) total (15%)

NOTE: Data was pulled on Tuesday, June 30\(^{th}\), and as of the publishing of this report on Friday, July 3\(^{rd}\), the total number of responses was at 6154. There may be another follow up report on this survey data once it closes.

Faculty Breakdown of Respondents

---

\(^1\) https://bit.ly/2VJXgKT
Do you plan to live in the Kitchener-Waterloo area for the fall term (September – December 2020)?

If yes to the above, would you plan to use the bus and/or Light Rail Transit (LRT)?
If yes to the above, how often might you use transit?

- Yes: 66%
- No: 19%
- Undecided: 15%

Responses: 2318

Multiple times a day: 17%
Daily: 24%
Weekly: 44%
Monthly: 5%
A few times per term: 10%
FREQUENCY ANALYSIS

NOTE: Due to the difficulty of coding thousands of responses, the following is a list of meaningful words and the number of times they occurred in response to the two long form questions. This should be used along with the “themes” to determine student sentiment.

Do you have any concerns about using the bus and LRT for transit during this time?

- covid: 193
- bus: 180
- transit: 145
- distancing: 121
- safety: 116
- social: 87
- concerns: 72
- lrt: 60
- health: 50
- buses: 47
- concerned: 37
- safe: 36
- fall: 36
- masks: 36
- need: 36
- grt: 36
- students: 36
- virus: 36
- waterloo: 36
- term: 36
- want: 36
- spread: 36
- pandemic: 36
- upass: 36
- due: 36
- campus: 36
- sanitation: 36
- cleanliness: 36

responses = 1035
Any other thoughts or feedback on the UPass?

responses = 709
THEMES | LONG RESPONSES

NOTE: The following is a list of representative quotes from students in response to the two long form questions in the survey.

*Do you have any concerns about using the bus and LRT for transit during this time?* [1035 responded, 23.72% of the total]

**THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

“I would wonder if any safety precautions would be imposed for the protection of bus/LRT employees and passengers.”

“Have seen some drivers on ION not wearing masks”

“I hope social distancing rules and seat restrictions are applied in the public transit system to ensure passengers’ safety.”
“It’s designation as "for essential use only" continuing into the fall term. The crowding on the busses/LRT.”

“The enforcement of mask wearing for passengers.”

“I am using this service primarily to get groceries and other necessities throughout the week. I am worried about coming in contact with people or being in an environment where the spread of the virus is increased, however with the proper planning and precautions I’m sure I will manage okay.”

“Delays due to passenger limitations during rush hour”

“Will all routes be operational?”
THE CARD SYSTEM

“Cancelling buses when they should just add more so less people get on each bus”

“The service levels in the fall being adequate enough to be convenient to get around time.”

“GRT cards are annoying, watcard tap is more convenient, but cost likely isn’t justified. Why can’t I load GRT pass value onto watcard?”

“I would like bus fare to be a part of my WatCard, this highly touted fact was a large part of why I felt comfortable coming to Waterloo for university: an all-inclusive and reliable way for me to get myself around my surrounding city.”
INABILITY TO ACCESS/BUY A UPASS

“I am concerned that if I actually do end up living in KW for the fall term that I will not be able to get a UPASS.”

“Right now we don’t have access to UPasses and it’s a little difficult for students on campus currently to go out of their way for passes when things are uncertain.”

“My only concern is that I may have to purchase a bus pass for myself if it is not part of the student tuition fees. It’s quite a bit more expensive if it’s a separate cost.”

PAYING FOR AN UNUSED SERVICE

“I am not using it so make the fee optional.”

“Many students have to pay this nonsense fee even though they never use this. I have paid it for 7 terms, and I have never been on any public transportation. It is useless for many students.”
Any other thoughts or feedback on the UPass? [709 responded, 16.25% of the total]

IT SHOULD BE AN OPTIONAL FEE

“Would there be able to be some sort of system to opt in / opt out of the UPass fee? So, people who are in aterloo (to complete their classes remotely or on campus OR who have co-op's in Waterloo/Kitchener) are able to choose to opt in to paying this fee.”

“Please do not make students pay for the UPass for the fall 2020 term. I live in Kitchener (my family moved to the area before my 1A term) and have been WFH this term. I have not used public transit during the past 4 months and I doubt I will for the fall term. Even if I do, it will be a handful times during the entire 4 months. I can just pay in cash!”
UPASS IS A NECESSITY

“My part time job will be opening up again soon & I will need my UPass for the fall term and I’m confused if I have to go to campus to have UPass enabled on my WatCard again or not.”

“I think keeping the UPass is so essential. Personally, with the loss of summer employment, the UPass will be a necessity for me to work throughout the school terms to support myself and I feel that MANY students will be in the same shape.”

“I rely on the UPass as part of my tuition and without financial assistance directly to my tuition I won’t be able to afford a pass. I am really relying on it being part of my tuition, as I use the bus daily.”

“I am relying on the UPass as transportation to my coop. It should be an option to have the UPass or not during the fall semester, many students are relying on it.”
ALTERNATIVE IDEAS FOR UPASS

“If I had the option to opt into my bus pass on a monthly basis in the fall term that would be nice. Closer to winter I might be more tempted to use the GRT since it gets colder”

“I never use the transit as I prefer to walk and bike. I think the UPass should always be optional, as it is a waste of students money if they don’t use it but are forced to pay for it.”

“Maybe introduce 10 passes that can be used at anytime during the fall term for a discounted fee”

“A cheaper version of the UPass would be a good idea for some students who may only have one or two courses in person and does not go to campus every day, but still has to go to campus”
Vice President, Education
Council Report

Megan Town
July 2020
1.0 Monthly Summary

1.1 General
This month I’ve been working on some policy development in collaboration with EAC. I’m excited to announce that I have been selected to be UCRU’s Advocacy Committee Chair! This means I’ll be working with the UCRU Board Chair and Vice-Chair to develop UCRU’s advocacy materials. I’ve also hired our new Student Research and Policy Assistant who will work with us in the fall. By the time Council happens, our first WUSA Town Hall will have occurred so I’m sure it went well!

1.2 Actionables
- I’m looking for a student author for OUSA’s paper on A Comprehensive Access Strategy. Please let me know if you’re interested in collaborating with other schools on this.
- Stay tuned for consultation opportunities on OUSA’s next set of policy papers
- Keep asking questions and giving feedback!!!

1.3 Communications
- I participated in a panel about academic integrity

2.0 Projects & Goals

2.1 Teaching and Course Quality in Response to COVID-19
The teaching form is still live. I’ve also been working with the university on topics like workload, surveying how students are doing and addressing changes in the digital course material guidelines.

2.2 WUSA Town Halls
Our first town hall will be about feedback on the spring term. Follow that we’ll be discussing what these events might look like going forward.

2.3 Student Research Program
My AVP Academic, Matthew Gerrits is beginning to work on what a framework for compensating students who provide research data for us. More details to come!

2.4 Expanding Research Capacity
I’m working on hiring our first ever research student! They will start in the fall and we will hire another one each term going forward. This also ties into “Rewarding Student
Roles." Similar to my AVPs, each student will have the opportunity to work on a project they are passionate about which also aligns with WUSA’s current goals.

2.5 External Advocacy

I pursued leadership roles in our external advocacy organizations and I am continuing to be heavily involved. In addition to my position in UCRU, this year I will be an author on OUSA’s papers: A Comprehensive Access Strategy and Racial and Religious Equity. I’ll also be editing the Student Health and Wellness Paper.

2.6 Additional goals

In addition to my goals on the annual plan, I’m also going to be working on a number of other initiatives. Later this year, I hope to work with our full-time staff to improve our processes for advocacy planning, research and communications.

3.0 Key Meetings

I invite questions on details about any of these meetings.

3.1 WUSA

- Connect with GSA on housing concerns
- Meeting about racial equity concerns and co-op
- Ongoing team meetings and one-on-ones with my AVPs and CAPS Coordinators

3.2 University

- More intro meetings!
- Senate Undergrad Council
- Further discussions on online proctored exams
- Working group on Online Learning Resources
- Discussion about international recruitment
- Co-op Education Council
  - I couldn’t make it to this meeting but my AVP Experiential & Co-op Affairs, Laura Kwan, attended

3.3 External

- OUSA Strategic Conference and SC meeting
- Ongoing biweekly UCRU Board and Advocacy Committee meetings
4.0 Committee Updates

4.1 Education Advisory Council
EAC has approved drafts of the new divestment policy and policy 34. We also reviewed drafts of policy 27/44 and 33.

4.2 Co-op Students’ Council
CSC discussed changes allowing international students to get credit for work terms outside of Canada as well as an update on job development efforts.
Chair of the Board of Directors
Report to Students’ Council

Benjamin Easton

12 July 2020

Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association
Formerly known as Federation of Students, University of Waterloo
1.0 Meetings of the Board and General Updates

9 June 2020 Regular Meeting
Board heard a proposal from management regarding WUSA wellness packages to be mailed to students in the Fall term and discussed an organizational social media policy. Board also scheduled its Regular Meetings for the remainder of Spring.

19 June 2020 Special Meeting
Board approved the reallocation of Reserve Fund Investment Accounts to fund the WUSA wellness package proposal. Board also discussed furniture costs in the SLC/PAC expansion.

6 July 2020 Special Meeting
At the time of writing, this meeting has not occurred. The Board will discuss the Annual Plan.

14 July 2020 Regular Meeting
The July Regular Meeting of Board is scheduled for 14 July 2020.

2.0 Attendance at Board Meetings
All Directors were present at both June meetings except Councilor-Director John Hunte who was excused from the 19 June 2020 Special Meeting.

3.0 Closing
As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns at any time at chair@wusa.ca.
Mathematics Caucus Report - [July 11th, 2020]
Yuqian (Ina) Wang [Society President],
Catherine Dong, John Hunte, Kanan Sharma
Matthew Schwarze, Mahaveer Ukrani, Andrew Yates, Karl Zhu

Recent Activities of Caucus Members

Kanan Sharma:
- Vice Chair, BAC: Working on creating the Budget report for WUSA 2020-2021 operating budget with the rest of the Committee
- First Year Math Student Transition: Working with the Faculty and SSO to run the Waterloo Ready for Math Faculty and also working on creating Faculty specific online orientation programming
- In my last report, I mentioned doing a survey about how the Spring term is going for students and how the profs are delivering content; I have put a pause on it as the University had sent a similar survey to all students and I am going to see if I can access the results of that Survey
- Was part of the WUSA Welcome Package Focus group

Society Updates - President Wang

The society president/designate can use this space to list stuff that them and their colleagues have been involved in. In particular, any cross-faculty stuff should be included here.

- We have completed the election and application process for the Fall 2020 MathSoc Execs and MathSoc Councilors (as of July 5th). The last step for the process is to acclaimed the elected exec roles (President and VPA) and councilors, and ratify the appointed roles (VPF, VPI, VPO).
- The upcoming council meeting will be on July 10th (2 days before this council meeting).
- I am currently preparing the final logistics for the MathSoc Spring General Meeting, which is happening online on July 25th.
  - More information can be found in related social media posts.
- We are at the final stages for our website. We hope to release the changes to students by August. This can guarantee its’ full function for Fall 2020 with the influx of prospective students and returning students.
Society Updates

Events
We have been working on our social media presence with events and interactive activities to engage science students. The big event that we have weekly is our Prof Instagram Takeovers to help students become more familiar with their profs and to introduce incoming first year students to their professors and instructors. Humans of Science is another weekly event that we have been doing to highlight students within our own science community.

Project Development
1. Orientation Programming: We are working with the science O Team to facilitate an event during orientation that will expose first years to the ways to get involved in the science community. This will include an opportunity to interact with club representatives in a live session.

2. Science Mentorship Program: SciSoc is developing a mentorship program that will pair upper year science students with first year students in their same program and with similar interests. The program will run throughout the Fall term to help students through their first term of university, especially with everything being online.

3. Departmental Club Elections: In preparation for an online Fall term, we are planning to have our executive members of our departmental clubs be elected at the end of Spring term to ensure a smooth transition into Fall.
Recent Activities of Caucus Members

Amanda:

- Several students I spoke with commented on this term feeling overwhelming and many speculated that a Spring reading week might have helped lessen the feeling.
- Throughout the month of June the inequities and systemic racism present in Canada were spoken about frequently. One area of significance was surrounding healthcare systems. Several professors at the campus addressed this and updated their lessons to include resources on how disease may present in a variety of different populations to try to lessen that gap. Many constituents were impressed with this response and I wonder if there are other areas within an academic framework at Waterloo that could also benefit from increased resources in regards to all populations.
- I reached out to constituents regarding the upcoming Fall term and any concerns they might have in regards to another online term. I received no feedback so my goal for the month of July is to find a more effective way to interact with more constituents.
APPENDIX D - EAC PROCEDURE 10 AMENDMENT

V. Education Advisory Council

a. Purpose

1. To advise the Vice-President, Education on matters relating to academic policy issues at the University of Waterloo, especially those being considered by the Senate and its related bodies.
2. To advise the Vice-President, Education on matters relating to the Federation’s municipal, regional, provincial and federal advocacy.
3. To advise and assist the Vice-President, Education in engaging with the membership on current issues, through means such as, but not limited to educational campaigns, membership surveys and external partnerships.

b. Responsibilities

1. To review and recommend updates of Students’ Council’s standing policies relating to the Education portfolio to the Students’ Council;
2. To develop new policies relating to the Education portfolio and recommend them to Students’ Council for consideration;
3. To propose policy stances, from time to time, to Students’ Council on issues of major and ongoing concern to students;
4. To make decisions, from time to time, as deemed appropriate by the Committee, on the Federation’s stance on urgent matters of concern to students;
5. To serve as the primary forum and focus groups for the Vice-President, Education and for campus partners who wish to gather student feedback on academic issues, and for the review of draft research papers presented by affiliate organizations including, but not limited to the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.

c. Membership

The voting membership of the Committee shall be

1. The Vice-President, Education, who shall normally serve as Chair;
2. The President;
3. All Commissioners from the Vice-President, Education Portfolio (Commissioners);
4. Up to three (3) members of Students’ Council;
5. Up to three (3) at-large members appointed by Students’ Council;
6. The Vice-President Academic or Education of:
   a. Applied Health Studies Undergraduate Members
   b. Arts Student Union
   c. Engineering Society A
   d. Engineering Society B, whichever is “on” term
   e. Environment Students’ Society
   f. Mathematics Society
   g. Science Society

The ex-officio, non-voting membership of the Council shall be
1. The Research and Policy Officer, who shall normally serve as the Secretary;
2. The Stakeholder Relations Manager, who shall serve as a resource member;
3. The Speaker of Students’ Council;
4. All undergraduate student Senators;
5. The Vice-President Academic of Engineering Society A or B, whichever is “off” term;
6. The Presidents of:
   a. Applied Health Studies Undergraduate Members
   b. Arts Student Union
   c. Engineering Society A
   d. Engineering Society B
   e. Environment Students’ Society
   f. Mathematics Society
   g. Science Society
7. A representative from each student society operating at a satellite or AFIW campus or Affiliated and Federated Institution of Waterloo:
   a. Conrad Grebel Students’ Council
   b. Global Business and Digital Arts Society
   c. Renison Academic Student Council
   d. St. Jerome’s Students’ Union
   e. Society of Pharmacy Students
   f. University of Waterloo Optometry Student Society (UWOSS)
   g. Waterloo Architecture Student Association
8. Any others as may be deemed necessary by the Vice-President, Education, from time to time

d. Meetings
1. The Committee shall meet at least three (3) times per academic term.
2. Quorum shall be six (6) voting members, including at least three (3) members who are not the Vice-President Education or their commissioners.
3. Meetings of the Committee shall normally be open. Notwithstanding, the Chair may, from time to time, when topics discussed are of a sensitive nature, determine that a meeting or part thereof be conducted in confidence.
4. Speaking rights shall normally be reserved to voting and ex-officio members of the Committee. Notwithstanding, the Chair may, from time to time, grant limited speaking privileges to guests.
5. When the Vice-President, Education is unable to Chair, they will appoint one of the member Commissioners or an Associate Vice President to serve as Chair.

e. Term of Office
1. The term of office for at-large and Councillor membership shall be one (1) academic year, ending April 30 of the year of service. All other members’ membership is contingent on retaining their position.

f. Other Notes
1. In general, issues related to Cooperative and Experiential Education will not be under the purview of this committee. These will be discussed at Coop Students’ Council. When
appropriate, updates will be provided by the Vice-President, Education, Associate Vice-President, Experiential & Co-op Affairs to the Committee.
APPENDIX E - EAC POLICIES 34 & 70 FIRST READINGS

WATERLOO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
POLICIES

Policy Title: Differential and Relative Grading
Policy Number: 34
Policy Class: Advocacy
Policy Category: UA

Effective Date: [DATE]
Approval Date: [DATE]
Last Revision Date: [DATE]
Review Year: [YEAR]

Sponsor: Education Advisory Council
Attachment: None
Responsible Bodies: PPC
Authority: Federation of Students Bylaw 8.7.(3).

Key Words: Grading Schemes, Academic Fairness, Marking

POLICY STATEMENT:
Differential Grading can have effects that affect different students to differing degrees, especially when applied part way through a term. This policy establishes the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association’s stance on these schemes. Furthermore, this policy takes a stance against the practice of relative grading, which can be detrimental for mental health.

PURPOSE:
To address and mitigate detrimental effects of differential grading and relative grading.

DEFINITIONS:
Differential Grading- Where an assessment or a series of assessments may be graded by multiple marking weighting schemes to yield different marks.

Syllabus/Course Outline (interchangeable)- A document for mandatory distribution that outlines critical information about the course, that serves as a contract between an instructor and students as to administration of the course.

Marking Scheme- The determination and representation of which assessments in the course will contribute to the final grade, and in which proportion.

Drop-No-Penalty Period- the period at the beginning of each term where a student may disenroll from a course without financial penalty.

Relative Marking- The practice of assigning marks relative to the performance of other students within the class, capping the total amount that the class as a whole can get at below 100% per student.
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Positive bell curving- The alteration by an instructor of all individuals’ grades within a class to move the class from its average after an assessment to a higher desired average, moving most or all individual marks higher.

SCOPE & EXEMPTIONS:
This policy guides the advocacy of the Vice President, Education, to prioritize according to capacity, opportunity and discretion.

Differential grading in this policy does not cover bonus marks, extra credit assignments, positive bell-curving or otherwise beneficially changing the grades resulting from an assessment, changes to a mark on the basis of a Verification of information Form, grievance, petition, or appeal, or any policy that could be reasonably interpreted to be outside of the instructors control.

POLICY COMMUNICATION:
This policy requires no communication plan, and shall be updated on various WUSA information storage systems and website in the usual fashion.

POLICY:
1. The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association believes:
   a. That students are entitled to information about weighting at the beginning of a course through a course outline or syllabus;
   b. That alterations to a syllabus are a bilateral negotiation between students and an instructor after the first version of a syllabus has been completed by the instructor within the first two weeks of class;
   c. That grades should generally reflect performance accurately, and that marks should not be unreasonably withheld;
   d. That students should be able to reasonably expect that they will be graded in a fair and equitable manner;
   e. That competition at the University of Waterloo should be structured to lead to higher academic achievement and a sense of self-competition, rather than interpersonal competition

2. The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association is concerned:
   a. That some instructors do not adequately inform students of marking schemes in their course outline.
   b. That differential grading, applied as a syllabus change during the term, can lead to adverse outcomes, such as preferencing a student with a smaller number of strong assessments over those with a more consistent but slightly lower performance on all assessments.
   c. That relative grading is not a sound practice for assessment of adequate mastery of material, or for demonstrating learning, and that relative grading can inspire competition where it is detrimental to mental health, with little benefit.
3. Therefore, the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association recommends:
   a. That the University of Waterloo should obligate a preliminary marking scheme to be included in each course outline.
   b. That the University of Waterloo develop Academic Calendar text demonstrating that if multiple marking schemes are used, that the student shall be assessed using that which returns the highest mark.
   c. That the University of Waterloo develop guidelines respecting amendments to grading schemes after the drop-no-penalty period ends;
   d. That the University of Waterloo institute that such a guideline require that any change to a marking scheme that would conceivably lead to a student having a lower grade shall require unanimous consent of all students present in a class;
   e. That in the case of cumulative assessments, that ad-hoc marking schemes dropping earlier assessments be encouraged when a later good mark shows mastery of earlier material.
   f. That if a new marking scheme is agreed to without changes in which assessments are conducted, a student may always retain the right to be marked under the old marking scheme as one of multiple potential marking schemes.
   g. That the University of Waterloo ban relative grading through a guideline, or language in the Academic Calendar text.

HISTORY:
Developed by EAC, Winter 2014
Passed by Students’ Council, 4 April, 2014
Expired, 4 April, 2017
Redeveloped by EAC, Spring & Fall 2019

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT:
This policy has no compliance and enforcement plan, as is typical fashion with regard to advocacy policies.

APPENDICES:
Cipher.
POLICY STATEMENT:
In light of social and environmental responsibility as well as economic benefits, the University of Waterloo should strive for a carbon-neutral investment portfolio by 2030. Board of Governors’ should communicate openly about progress towards carbon neutrality while soliciting stakeholder feedback.

PURPOSE:
The intention of this policy is to document the student opinion and develop advocacy objectives for responsible investing. Applicable representatives will advocate for the objectives herein laid out. This policy was written as a result of constituent feedback on the Board of Governors’ actions.

DEFINITIONS:
ESG - Environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria are a set of standards for a company’s operations that socially conscious investors use to screen potential investments.
Divestment - The process of selling subsidiary assets, investments or divisions in order to maximize the value of the parent company.
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POLICIES

SCOPE & EXEMPTIONS:
This policy applies to anyone who is representing student opinion on University of Waterloo investments on behalf of the undergraduate student body as a whole. This includes executives, commissioners/associate vice presidents, and at-large undergraduate senators.

POLICY COMMUNICATION:
The Vice President, Education shall be responsible for informing student senators and other relevant advocates about this policy.

POLICY:
The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association believes:
The University of Waterloo should strive for a carbon-neutral investment portfolio by divesting from fossil fuels and other carbon-intensive industries by 2030.

The Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association recommends:
1. The University of Waterloo's investments should continue to uphold ESG principles.
2. The Board of Governor’s should strive to minimize carbon intensive investments.
   a. Therefore, the Board of Governors shall consult with their fund managers on reduction in carbon-intensive investments.
   b. In line with minimizing carbon-intensive investments, the Board of Governors shall divest completely from fossil fuels by 2023.
3. The University of Waterloo should investigate and report on the performance of their portfolios following incorporation of ESG principles.
4. The Board of Governors should regularly update students and other stakeholders on ESG investment progress including technical and plain-language reports.
5. The Board of Governors should provide opportunity for student input via open consultation or submission opportunities.
   a. Furthermore, student membership should be included on future investment working groups and committees
6. The University of Waterloo should develop distinct investment portfolios to allow key stakeholders greater input in where their money is invested.

Further to these beliefs and recommendations, the following background information is provided:
The University of Waterloo has committed to ESG principles through United Nations’ Principles for Responsible Investing. However, ESG investing does not guarantee divestment from fossil fuels and other carbon intensive industries. In addition, the Board of Governors has not been regularly updating students on progress towards responsible investments. As of June 2020, the latest detailed communication was released in 2018.

Most recently, the university has signed the Responsible Investment Charter for Canadian Universities. This includes commitment to,
WATERLOO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
POLICIES

1. Adopting a responsible investing framework to guide decision-making, in line with recognized standards such as the UN-supported Principles of Responsible Investment (UN-PRI)
2. Regularly measure the carbon intensity of our investment portfolios and set meaningful targets for their reduction over time;
3. Evaluate progress towards these objectives on a regular basis and share the results of such assessments publicly;
4. Ensure that the performance evaluation of our investment managers takes into account their success in achieving such objectives, alongside the other criteria for assessing their performance

An analysis of investment performance with and without fossil fuel stocks from 1927-2016 showed that divestment would not have reduced portfolio performance. Although there has been mixed support for the efficacy of divestment, some studies have shown that stock boycotts can be effective in influencing company behaviors.

Failure to divest from fossil fuels has been shown to have risks which adversely affect investments’ success. As the world shifts away from fossil fuels, oil and gas companies continue to hold significant reserves. Use of these reserves along with current production would exceed IPCC targets for CO2 emissions. This means that the valuation of these companies relies on assets which are not able to be realized. In addition to public shifts in perception, regulatory frameworks and government perceptions are changing. For example, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that companies seeking a federal loan as a result of COVID-19 will need to “demonstrate that they are disclosing their climate footprint, and the challenges that they might face in that regard.” This follows Canada’s commitment to 2030 emission reduction goals. The European Union has also set a climate & energy framework which includes greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Other universities have committed to divestment principles including Université Laval, Université du Québec à Montréal, University of Guelph, Concordia University, University of British Columbia, Queen’s University and University of Guelph.

At time of writing, the world is amidst a global pandemic due to COVID-19. The oil and gas industry was already in a downturn prior to a global crisis causing significant losses. The current situation demonstrates further concerns surrounding investment in carbon-intensive industries.

HISTORY:
Policy developed in consultation with EAC and members of Fossil Free UW in Spring 2020.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT:
This policy has no compliance and enforcement plan, as is typical fashion with regard to advocacy policies.

APPENDICES: N/A
WATERLOO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
POLICIES

https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/responsible-investing-update
6. https://www.eia.gov/international/data/world
7. https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/