




WUSA

Annual Plan

2024-25

*Your student association's
operational & advocacy goals*

A Letter from your WUSA President

Things have really gotten rolling at WUSA  and taking time out of your day to keep up with us is genuinely appreciated. Another year brings with it another Annual Plan, the last one based on Long-Range Plan set in 2020. If you haven't come across the 2020-25 Long-Range Plan before, this document serves as the framework for activities this year and the past 4 years.

As we look ahead to our next five-year plan for 2025-30, I can't say I'm not nervous about how things are headed. The post-secondary sector in Ontario is in a tight spot, with our province ranking last in provincial spending, and Canada seeing the lowest investment in education per student in the developed world. Despite this we press on, and all things going well, we deliver on the promises made in the next few pages.

I'll highlight a handful of the major goals that we have for the year, some of which are continuing projects, others have been brought in from the campaign period in February. The first of these is completing the years-long project of hiring an Ombudsperson. This office, once filled, serves to support students with a variety of issues across campus, but critically, is paid -in half- directly through WUSA. It serves as an important resource to support students when times get rocky (which they always seem to do).

I'm also excited to have WUSA tackling coop issues in earnest, and more than ever before. Nearly three quarters of Waterloo's undergraduate student population participates in cooperative education, and we're gearing up to support the major changes to coop advisors that Co-Op and Experiential Education is rolling out this fall.

To make a neat trio, I'll highlight our focus on food insecurity, something that has been growing on campus and across Ontario. We've already been busy learning means from far and near to fill hungry bellies. It's an omen of dark days ahead that the poor quality and availability of housing is more often on the backburner than in years past. Regardless, we're pressing ahead, and giving a shot at working up Maslow's hierarchy of needs once again.

There are even more priorities and objectives to discover ahead, both in loftier terms and getting down to the grit, like my personal passion for environmental sustainability, waste diversion, mental health, self-advocacy, public transportation, housing and more.

Your glorious leader,
Nicholas Pfeifle



OUR STORY

INDIAN STREET FOOD OBSESSION

CHASKA literally means "Obsession", and mine is an obsession with Indian street food. Going back on my childhood in India, some of my favourite memories are those of family trips to different cities to visit friends and relatives. These trips were a feast for the senses, from the vibrant colours and artistry of the trucks we would pass along the way and the distinctive sounds of their horns, to the delicious flavours and aromas of the street. Each place we would go offered a unique street food experience where I developed a passion for favourites such as chaat, kathi rolls, samosas and tawa chicken.

It's the authentic street food experience that I remember as a young boy is brought to life at CHASKA. We offer a different take on Indian food that is both delicious and prepared daily using savoury spices, with flavourful herbs and marinades in place of bland and heavy sauces.

Our recipes have been developed with passion, and spiced to perfection. We invite you to be a food explorer at CHASKA, and make Indian street food your obsession.

Chetan Seth

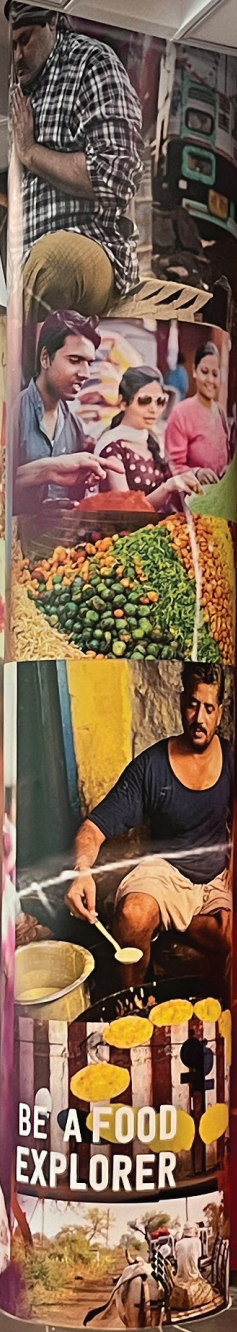
CHASKA.COM
@CHASKAWATERLOO

CHASKA

INDIAN STREET FOOD OBSESSION

चस्क्या

BE A FOOD EXPLORER



Operational Goals

The organization shall:

Support the review of New Student Transition (NST) programming in partnership with the University LRP 2

Action Items:

- Work collaboratively with the relevant departments to engage in the ongoing NST review project.
- Review best practices within the NST field and analyze where the University differs from WUSA
- Conduct a comprehensive review of offerings of NST programming and assess if they are meeting the needs of membership and where future adjustments are needed
- Review decision-making models

Develop plan for expansion of on campus event offerings LRP 2

Action Items:

- Continue membership consultation regarding event experiences to develop a more thorough understanding of our membership's diverse needs
- Create a robust annual strategic plan
- Establish a continuous review process for evaluating offerings

Complete administrative improvements to the clubs system LRP 1

Action Items:

- Continue rollout and enhancements of the clubs system

Finalize direction and approvals for the Lounge Plan LRP 4

Action Items:

- Create financial plan to support project
- Research to support expanded scope

What is LRP?

The Long Range Plan (LRP) is set every 5 years to guide the strategies and priorities of WUSA.

Read the full 2020-2025 LRP at wusa.ca/plans.

LRP 1

Accessible engagement with WUSA & societies

LRP 2

Build campus engagement

LRP 3

Support students' personal & professional growth

LRP 4

Efficiently serve students with commercial services

LRP: Affordability

LRP: Housing

LRP: Educational Quality

LRP: Equity & Accessibility

LRP: International Students

Launch WUSA Quick-Service-Restaurant Outlet

Complete plans for audio recording studio

Action Items:

- Survey student groups to understand usage and needs
- Develop space concept and business plan

Update WUSA's Indigenization strategy LRP 3

Action Items:

- Create a new report and supporting stance on how WUSA can support Indigenization on campus
- Continue to strengthen our relationships with Indigenous students and communities on campus
- Implement educational opportunities for our full-time staff

Finalize research and recommendations on Athletics Fee LRP: Affordability

Action Items:

- Obtain data from Athletics & Recreation regarding financials, satisfaction rates, and participation data
- Conduct further research to build upon previous Representative Survey Platform (RSP) findings
- Continue to monitor Athletics & Recreation data
- Prepare report for membership to update on General Meeting motion



Advocacy Priorities



Student safety and community

LRP: Equity & Accessibility

Action Items: Student safety and community

- a. Develop a tool for student safety that lists current and available resources in real-time
- b. Red Zone awareness initiative in partnership with Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO) to increase awareness of and education about safety resources on campus
- c. Collaborate with the University to establish a feedback loop to assess student safety and improve reporting processes for hate speech and discrimination
- d. Evaluate the reinstatement of the Walk Safe program or explore alternatives by assessing student interest and feasibility
- e. Collaborate with the University to review Freedom of Expression guidelines and ensure student voices and concerns are heard and addressed

Action Items: Building Connections/Engagement

- a. Offer programs and events that provide undergraduate students the opportunity to engage with their peers
- b. Advocate to the University for enhancement opportunities to help students build stronger relationships with faculty, instructors, and support staff on campus
- c. Host a stakeholder event with campus partners and student-led services to enhance connections and better serve students
- d. Continue to facilitate connections between students and community leaders, by increasing on-campus engagement opportunities
- e. Increase awareness of local opportunities for students to get involved with the broader community
- f. Digitize the student cookbook and encourage student submissions to celebrate our diverse culture on campus

Action Items: Equity and Inclusion

- a. Advocate for mandatory diversity and inclusion training for all staff, faculty, and students, exceeding current Ontario requirements
- b. Offer equity-focused events through the Associate Provost Students Programming Collaborative with various campus partners
- c. Support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community by offering Pride programming and advocating to the University to conduct additional assessments of student safety
- d. Continue to work to add gender-affirming care to the student healthcare plan
- e. Advocate for hybrid counselling supports or extended hours
- f. Consult with students with disabilities and experts to develop best practices beyond Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements (e.g., inclusive event resources for student-led initiatives)
- g. Work with campus partners to further investigate the experiences of safety on campus for students with disabilities



Post-Secondary Sustainability

LRP: Affordability

LRP: International Students

LRP: Educational Quality

Action Items: Educational Quality

- Advocate for the development of programming to help students manage external challenges related to teaching styles and course expectations
- Continue relationship with Teaching Assessment Process (TAP) promoting the Course Perception Survey

Action Items: Affordability

- Support the development of a Blue Ribbon Response Paper for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA)
- Provide resources for students on how to prepare budgets and set financial goals
- Advocate for and explore opportunities to increase the use of Open Educational Resources (OERs) for students

Action Items: International Students

- Advocate for equitable tuition fees
- Ensure international students have adequate supports upon arrival on campus
- Ensure early information sharing around housing, tenant, and landlord education



Self-Advocacy

Action Items

- a. Launch inaugural advocacy pitch competition for undergraduates, offering funding and mentorship to carry out selected advocacy initiatives
- b. Develop a self-advocacy resource to equip students with the skills needed to advocate for themselves and others

Housing

LRP: Housing

Action Items

- a. Maintain partnership with Waterloo Region Community Legal Services to offer resources, workshops, and consultations for students seeking legal advice
- b. Expand the Housing Playbook to promote affordable housing options outside the city center
- c. Research current issues faced by students, focusing on rental conditions and landlord problems
- d. Continue to engage with university partners and advocate to local, provincial, and federal leaders to address student housing concerns

Environmental Sustainability

Action Items

- a. Collaborate with Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (EDI-R) to distribute free sustainable menstruation products to students while educating the, on menstrual equity
- b. Support OUSA policy paper on environmental sustainability
- c. Conduct research on student environmental sustainability priority areas

Co-op

Action Items

- a. Collect student feedback on co-op timeline and impacts on student success
- b. Propose suggested changes on co-op timelines to Co-operative Experiential Education (CEE)



Wellness

LRP: Equity & Accessibility

Action Items: Mental Health

- Conduct research to assess student satisfaction with the recently implemented changes to service offerings within Campus Wellness
- Offer programs and events featuring community partners presenting on student mental health topics
- Review Empower Me program through Studentcare

Action Items: Food Insecurity

- Investigate affordable food initiatives to further combat food insecurity on campus
- Continue to collaborate with Food Support Services to enhance the survey, monitoring and reporting process, ensuring quality data for advocacy efforts



Advocacy Priorities



WUSA