

2017 - 2018

C TABLE OF CONTENTS

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	P. 1
ABOUT US	P. 3
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	P. 5
CAMPAIGNS	P. 6
FINANCE & OPERATIONS	P. 10
CLUBS & COURSE UNIONS	P. 12
EVENTS	P. 13
MEMBER OUTREACH & GOVERNANCE	P. 14
FOOD BANK & FREE STORE	P. 16

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

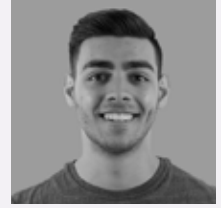
Lead Directors



Pierre-Paul
Angelblazer - Interim
Director of Outreach
& University
Relations



Mackenzie
Cumberland
Director of Finance
& Operations



Noor Chasib
Director of Events



Kaitlin Fortier
Director of
Student Affairs

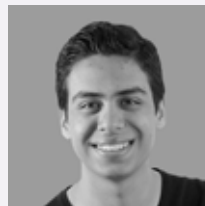


Anmol Swaich
Director of Campaigns
& Community
Relations

Directors at Large



Karina Dhillon



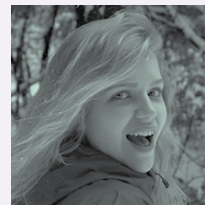
Christopher Dickey



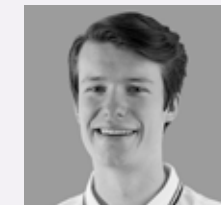
Cameron Fox



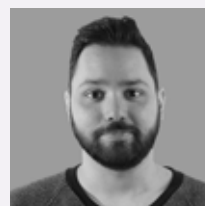
Rachel Kelly



Tanner Lorenson



David Stevanovich



Ramunas M. Wierzbicki

2017-2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director of International Student Relations



Dheeraj (Raj)
Alamchandani

Native Students Union (NSU) Representative



Bradley Thom

Advocacy Group Representatives



Joy Ngenda
Students' of Colour
Collective (SOCC)



Willa
UVic Pride



Vacant
The Third Space



Audrey Deutschmann
Society for Students
with a Disability (SSD)

2
0
1
7
-
2
0
1
8

ABOUT US

All undergraduate students at the University of Victoria are members of the UVic Students' Society (UVSS). Founded in 1964, the UVSS is a non-profit society run by students that provides essential services, advocacy, representation, and events for our 18,000+ members. We are entirely separate from the University and we operate nine unique student-focused businesses in the Student Union Building (SUB). We work on a broad array of issues that affect students and we work hard to ensure that their voices are heard by the University administration and all levels of government.

MISSION

Our mission is to be a leader in providing high-quality and accessible services, and advocacy and events that enhance the student experience and build a campus community that embodies our values.

VISION

Full student engagement in our core components of advocacy, events, services, businesses, and society governance.

VALUES

Our values are what we stand for. They underlie everything that we do and guide how we make decisions, perform our work and work with each other.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

We take our responsibility to ensure the long-term stability and health of your students' society very seriously. To us this means ensuring participatory democracy and transparent decision-making, being prudent and judicious with your student fees, and being accountable for our actions.

FUN!

We value fun in everything that we do. To us that means creativity, passion, spirit, lightheartedness, and not being institutional. Campus should be a fun place to be and students should feel excited and engaged about the work their students' society does.

EXCELLENCE

We aim to be a leader not just among student societies, but among nonprofits. We pursue this goal through excellence. To us that means fostering creativity, driving innovation, promoting a learning culture, investing in our people, and by taking a compassionate approach to everything that we do.

SERVICE

Service to students is why we exist. Our student-centered approach drives us to provide services that are high-quality, relevant, and meaningful to students. Whether it's our social enterprises, the extended health and dental plan, or the UPass, we strive to ensure that we serve all members of the UVSS.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

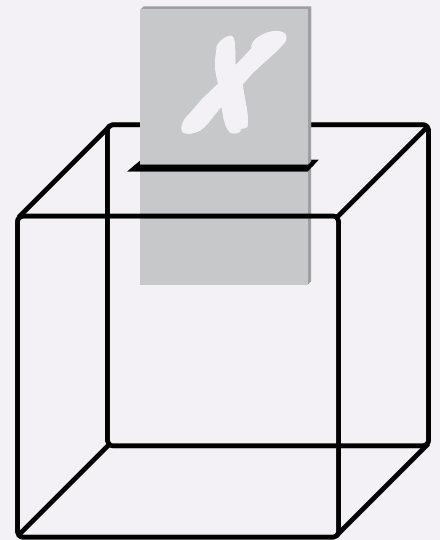
Whether we are advocating for student issues or putting the profits from our businesses back into services for students, the UVSS works every day to ensure no person is left behind. We work with campus and community partners to raise awareness and empower students to create change. To support this work, we will create inclusive and supportive spaces for student collaboration.

GOVERNANCE

A democratically elected student Board of Directors oversees the UVSS. The Board meets twice a month in order to effectively govern the Society. Students are invited to actively participate on the Board's various committees.

The Board consists of the following directors:

- Eleven Directors-at-Large
- International Student representative
- Four advocacy group representatives
- Native Students Union representative
- Five Lead Directors
 - Director of Campaigns & Community Relations
 - Director of Student Affairs
 - Director of Finance & Operations
 - Director of Events
 - Director of Outreach & University Relations



Elections for these positions take place in March, with the exception of: the representatives for the Third Space Women's Centre, UVic Pride, the Native Students Union (NSU), the Students of Colour Collective (SOCC) and the Society for Students with a Disability (SSD); these groups elect their representatives to the Board of Directors at their general meetings.

THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING (SUB)

The UVSS operates nine businesses located in the Student Union Building. These businesses are social enterprises (businesses run for a social good) and their profits go back to students in the form of advocacy, events, and services. Many of the UVSS businesses have been recently renovated so that they are better able to serve students. The following are the nine UVSS businesses:

Health Food Bar (HFB)

Wraps, sandwiches, fresh juice, and smoothies. Vegan and gluten free options.

SUBText – Books & Things

Used textbooks, magazines, cards, gifts, snacks, and drinks.

The Grill

Dahls, curries, burgers, and more. Vegan and gluten free options.

Catering & Conference Services

Meeting room bookings and catering.

Bean There Cafe

Pizza, sushi, bagels, muffins, breakfast sandwiches, and coffee.

Munchie Bar

Best coffee, espresso, and americano on campus.

Felicitas's Campus Pub

Beer, wine, liquor, food, live music, karaoke, and other great events.

Cinecenta Movie Theatre

Indie, foreign, and Hollywood films, and damn fine popcorn.

Zap Copy – Digital Print Centre

7 cent copies, wide format printing, binding, and old exams.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Hi everyone!

We'd like to start by thanking you for giving us the opportunity to be part of the UVSS. We've all had a great couple of semesters working for our campus to improve services, run important campaigns, host fun events, and finally to inform the membership of what services and supports are available to them.

We started the school year with Campus Kick-Off - a series of events that brought new and returning students together as they attended sold-out parties in the SUB, the classic free pancake breakfast, the ever popular Movie in the Park, and more! This year, we even broke our record for single-day food sales in Felicita's Pub! We reignited existing campaigns and created new ones like Grants Now and Safer Use, which bring focus to real solutions to student issues such as creating a system of grants for low-income students, or improving harm reduction on campus through naloxone training sessions and hosting fun Friday night events like Salsa Nights to provide an alternative for students who don't want to drink. We have been equally hard at work behind the scenes overseeing all clubs and course unions in order to ensure that our campus community can flourish.

We've done a lot more than just Campus Kick-Off though! Here are some other highlights from this year that we're proud of:

- Streamlined our policy in order to be as clear as possible
- Introduced a comprehensive HR policy for our 200+ student, permanent, and excluded staff
- Had over 20% voter turnout for a fall referendum
- Introduced new branding to the Student Union Building
- Created a document that explains how to read the budget
- Trained 3 new campuses in BC to offer the *Let's Get Consensual* campaign and host their own consent workshops

Not only did we accomplish all of the above, but we are currently on track to end the board term with an annual surplus!

We were very lucky to be given the chance to serve as your elected representatives. We wish you all the best in the coming semester.

Sincerely,

The 2017-2018 UVSS Executive Team.



CAMPAIGNS



Anmol Swaich

Director of Campaigns & Community Relations

Grants Now

This year we launched our *Grants Now* campaign in partnership with the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS), the UBC Alma Mater Society (UBC AMS), and the Alliance of BC Students (ABCS). Students in post-secondary are paying outrageous amounts in tuition-fees, textbook costs and living expenses. Needs-based grants for students from lower-income families would open up opportunities for tons of students. This is why we are collecting signatures on a petition asking the BC government to create a grants program. Right now, BC is the only province without a comprehensive needs-based grants program. Through coordinated lobbying with the UBC AMS and the SFSS, we presented our recommendation to various cabinet ministers and MLA's. Similarly, we coordinated presentations to the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. In order to ensure that people from all walks of life are able to pursue an education, we will continue to lobby and push for needs-based grants.

ReThink Mental Health

ReThink Mental Health is a campaign focused on bringing awareness to mental health on campus. Students are at a time in their lives where they are often transitioning into having more responsibilities, learning about themselves and dealing with difficult situations. For this reason, it is extremely important to work self-care and supporting each other into our everyday lives.

This year, we have coordinated with UBC AMS and SFSS to lobby the BC government for more mental health resources at post-secondary institutions including an overarching provincial post-secondary mental health strategy. Since then, we met with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to give our input on needed initiatives. Alongside encouraging the BC government to prioritize this issue, the UVSS has taken initiative at our own campus. We held the 4th Annual Mental Health Showcase event where we brought student talent in from across campus to share their experiences with mental health through some form of art. Rae Spoon headlined this event and it was a success. We worked with the University to bring the Friendship Bench to our campus. The



Friendship Bench is a bright yellow, physical reminder for students to take a minute to breathe and take care of themselves that also links students to mental health resources. We held both the Mental Health Showcase and the Friendship Bench unveiling during Mental Health Awareness Week.

Rent with Rights

Rent with Rights is a housing campaign for affordable and accessible student housing. This campaign was launched in 2016 as a collaboration between the UVSS, SFSS, and the UBC AMS. With vacancy rates as low as 0.2%, students and lower-income people are struggling to find safe, accessible and affordable places to live. It is evident that student housing presents a viable solution to this issue as taking students out of the off-campus market, opens space for community members and drives down prices. However, universities are currently restricted from financing student housing through debt.

This year, we continued to lobby all levels of government, including the Ministry of Housing and Social Development about the need for more on-campus housing. We presented our recommendation of needed change in debt restrictions to the BC Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. We have taken different routes to spread the importance of this issue to the broader community. Not only have we lobbied at municipal levels, we have also gone into specific Greater Victoria neighbourhoods and spoken to community



CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

members about the struggles students are facing. We also used social media to share horror stories that UVic students' submitted about their housing situations to further push the importance of much needed on-campus housing.

Through our dedicated and coordinated efforts, there is a real potential for a solution and not just for students, but for the many low-income families who have to live every day with the reality of rising rents.

Safer Use

The *Safer Use* campaign was developed and launched as a method of combating the current opioid crisis in BC. Recognizing that the fentanyl crisis partially exists due to the stigmatization of substance use and the lack of resources for those that use was an important part of building the philosophy that guides this campaign. Students on campuses have been engaging in substance use, whether it is alcohol or drugs, for a very long time. Instead of turning a blind eye or encouraging abstinence, we decided to share information on how to be safer when using substances as well as how to respond to an overdose. Not only did we receive a great response from students, but this campaign also received lots of media coverage.

We partnered with UVic Health Services to become one of the first campuses in BC to offer naloxone training. Since September 2017, we have been offering two sessions of naloxone training each month and had very high attendance each time. We also coordinated with the SFSS and the UBC AMS to lobby the Ministry of Advanced Education and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions for greater support for harm reduction at post-secondary institutions.

Make Transit Work

In 2015, the Camosun College Student Society (CCSS) and the University of Victoria Student Society

successfully lobbied for a rotating seat on the Greater Victoria Transit Commission. This year it was the UVSS' turn to sit at the table with the other members of the Commission. This meant meeting regularly with our fellow members of the Greater Victoria Transit Alliance (Unifor 333, CCSS and the UVic Graduate Students' Society) and taking our ideas for more efficient service back to the Commission. Through meeting and building relationships with local mayors, we were able to encourage the Commission to successfully pass two motions. The first was to write a letter to the Ministry of Transportation asking for a change in legislation that would make the student seat on the Commission a voting seat and the second was to instruct BC Transit to work with the Student Societies to create a reduced student summer pass.

Let's Get Consensual

As a part of our ongoing and successful Let's Get Consensual campaign, we have continued to conduct outreach and support the Anti-Violence project and UVic CARE leaders in promoting healthy relationships and consent. This year we incorporated the message "We Believe Survivors" to add a support component to a strong consent campaign.

Our 3rd Annual Sexualized Violence Awareness Week was a great success. We kicked off with keynote speaker Farrah Khan at the event "We Begin by Listening" which drew over 300 students, staff, and community members for an excellent discussion of the importance of consent. And we hosted a survivor-themed craft fair in the quad featuring slam poets.

Thank you for your continued support of our campaigns!

Best,

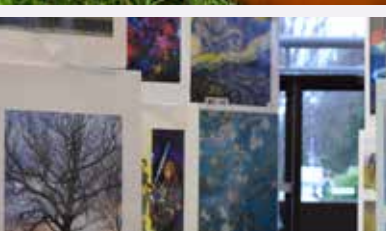
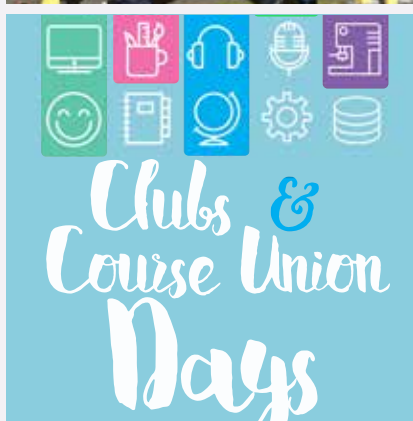
Anmol Swaich

Director of Campaigns & Community Relations



Campus KICK OFF







Strategic Planning

This year the UVSS extended and built upon the two-year strategic plan initiated by the 2016-2017 Board of Directors. The new three-year strategic plan identifies increasing financial strain and negative public image as the major strategic priorities confronting the UVSS. These are both long-term issues that will continue to affect future boards.

Organizational Improvements

After two years of hard work, on December 11th the Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive Human Resources policy. During the summer, a consultation committee was struck where directors, staff, and representatives from the advocacy groups collaborated to complete this project. An employee handbook is included to help our staff navigate their employment with the UVSS. This policy will contribute to the UVSS being a positive working environment with an established learning culture for all members of our team.

Financial Position

The UVSS started the year with over \$150,000 in accumulated deficit. The previous board began the process of paying down the accumulated debt and this year we projected a surplus of over \$10,000 to continue this process. Currently, the board is approximately \$26,000 ahead of budget for this year.

Health and Dental Plan

Last year, the Health and Dental Plan was short the necessary funds to cover the claims submitted by our members. This brought to light major structural challenges faced by the plan that need to be altered. The structure of the plan has not been modernized since its adoption in 2003 and as such does not meet the needs of our current members. As a result of all of these challenges, last year's board had to make drastic changes to



the plan in order to offer a plan to members at all.

In the spring, members will be asked through referendum to approve a massive overhaul to the Health and Dental plan. The UVSS has consulted with stakeholders in order to create a plan with a new fee structure and more choice for students in their coverage. It is time that the plan is updated to meet the needs of students today.

UVSS SEMESTERLY MEMBERSHIP FEES

UVSS SEMESTERLY FEES FOR A FULL TIME STUDENT, 2017-2018 - TOTAL: \$76.60



UVSS OPERATIONS - \$26.60	CAMPUS COMMUNITY GARDENS (CCG) - \$1.50
ADVOCACY GROUPS - \$8.60	OMBUDEPERSON - \$1.50
BUILDING & CAPITAL FUNDS - \$8.50	UVSS FOOD BANK - \$1.50
CFUV - \$5.00	CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE - \$1.00
INDEPENDENT ELECTIONS OFFICE - \$0.40	UNIVERSITY ID - \$0.75
MARTLET - \$3.75	CAMPAGNS - \$0.50
VIPIRG - \$3.00	UVic SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT (UVSP) - \$0.50
CLUBS - \$1.00	STUDENT BURSARIES - \$1.00
COURSE UNIONS - \$1.50	SPECIAL EVENTS - \$0.50
WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE OF CANADA (WUSC) - \$2.50	SUB RENOVATION - \$5.00
ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT (AVP) - \$2.00	(COLLECTED MAY 2013 TO APRIL 2018)



STUDENTCARE

Making Finance Fun and Accessible

This year we continued to improve the way that our financial information is presented to our members. We maintained the practice of using a clear and accessible visual presentation to show students the way that their student fees are spent at the Annual General Meeting. In addition, we have created a document on how to read the student society budget, which is included in the finance section of the UVSS website.



SUB Renovations

The major renovations that the UVSS undertook in 2012 are reaching completion this year. The Michele Pujol Room was spruced up making the space cleaner and brighter with ezoboards installed to help control for noise. Also, the UVSS will be updating the technology at Zap! Copy to increase the ease of use for students fulfilling their printing needs.

New SUB Branding

Based on the results of previous market analyses, this year we launched new SUB branding complete with a logo and a robot mascot to create a clear brand identity that is differentiated from the UVSS. The new and fun branding matches the anti-institutional and youthful personality of the various businesses inside the SUB.



Best,

Mackenzie Cumberland

Director of Finance & Operations



CLUBS & COURSE UNIONS



Kaitlin Fortier
Director of Student Affairs

Clubs

The UVSS has over 175 active clubs that cover a wide range of interests. Whether you are interested in anime or water skiing, there is a club for you. If you still can't find a group that strikes your fancy, you can always start your own. There were over 20 new clubs started this year alone, including the Live Music Club, Primate Project, and UVic Concrete Toboggan. Clubs have the chance to apply for Special Project Funding in addition to base funding. Some of the projects clubs have completed with this funding include: hosting a Taiwanese Film Festival, an Islam awareness week, putting on a Model UN conference, and attending a formula hybrid racing competition. Clubs also saw the rollout of an updated Clubs Handbook in the Fall term.

Course Unions

The UVSS has over 40 faculties represented by course unions and professional development unions (PDUs). Course unions and PDUs have access to academic and publication grants. Some course unions used their academic funding to put on conferences, such as the Western Canadian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, or to host events, such as Meet the Prof Nights. Several course unions also produced publications that feature student work, such as The Albatross and Essence. All undergraduate students have access to Travel Pool funding, which the Course Union Council administers. This year travel pool sent students far and wide; there were grants to send students to San Diego for a RoboSub competition, Nova Scotia to present their research at the Canadian Economics Association Annual conference, and



over 40 students went to Vancouver for the BC Music Educators Association Conference. Course Unions also saw some updates to their handbook this year.

Clubs and Course Union Days

On September 13 & 14 and January 10 & 11, we had one of the largest Clubs and Course Union Days ever that featured over 140 UVSS clubs and course unions as well as numerous other Vikes clubs and on-campus student groups. The hallways were flooded as thousands of students came to sign up to join new clubs. Strolling down the rows of booths you could sample the various treats provided by clubs as incentives to sign up. Along the way could also encounter everything from rockets to the Swing Dancing Club ready to teach you how to Lindy hop.

Best,

Kaitlin Fortier

Director of Student Affairs





Special Events

The 2017-2018 school year has been a blur. I am proud of the work our board has done and will do in the coming months. Starting the year off, Campus Kick-Off 2017 was undoubtedly one to remember. We continued building on old traditions and implemented new ideas to improve campus life and get students re-energized for the start of the semester. We followed through hosting an all-ages event for Campus Kick-Off - and it sold out in mere days. For Bands on the Roof, we brought in a diverse music line-up with over 18 different artists, a bigger and better screen for Movie in the Park, and continued with our ever popular free pancake breakfast.

Our goal this year was to increase the total number of events we do while also increasing their quality. I am pleased to say we have surpassed our initial goals and are on track to make this year the best that UVic has seen in years.

As we continued into the fall semester, we began hosting at least one event within Vertigo a month. Obviously, we could not have done everything alone. Through the help and collaboration of different groups on and off campus, we've been able to increase the quality of service we provide to students. One thing I am incredibly proud of is the work we've done to bring a large scale concert to UVic. It has been a long time coming and I am thrilled to be a part of such a historic moment for the UVSS. Our ability to make this concert the best one we can will set the foundation for large scale concerts on campus for years to come.

However, not everything has been about parties. Being the Director of Events has also meant working in partnership with different groups on and off campus to bring events that provide students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge. As well, we are continuing with our ever successful Clash of Clubs. Our aim is to expose students to different political ideologies and raise awareness about our federal and provincial electoral systems.

Besides hosting events, we are also committed to staying proactive. For example, the UVSS Accessibility Guidelines has been an invaluable resource that we are constantly updating and re-assessing to make sure we continue to uphold our promise to host events that are as accessible as possible for all students. Taking inspiration from all different directions, we continue to make UVSS events unique, safe, inclusive, and fun for all.

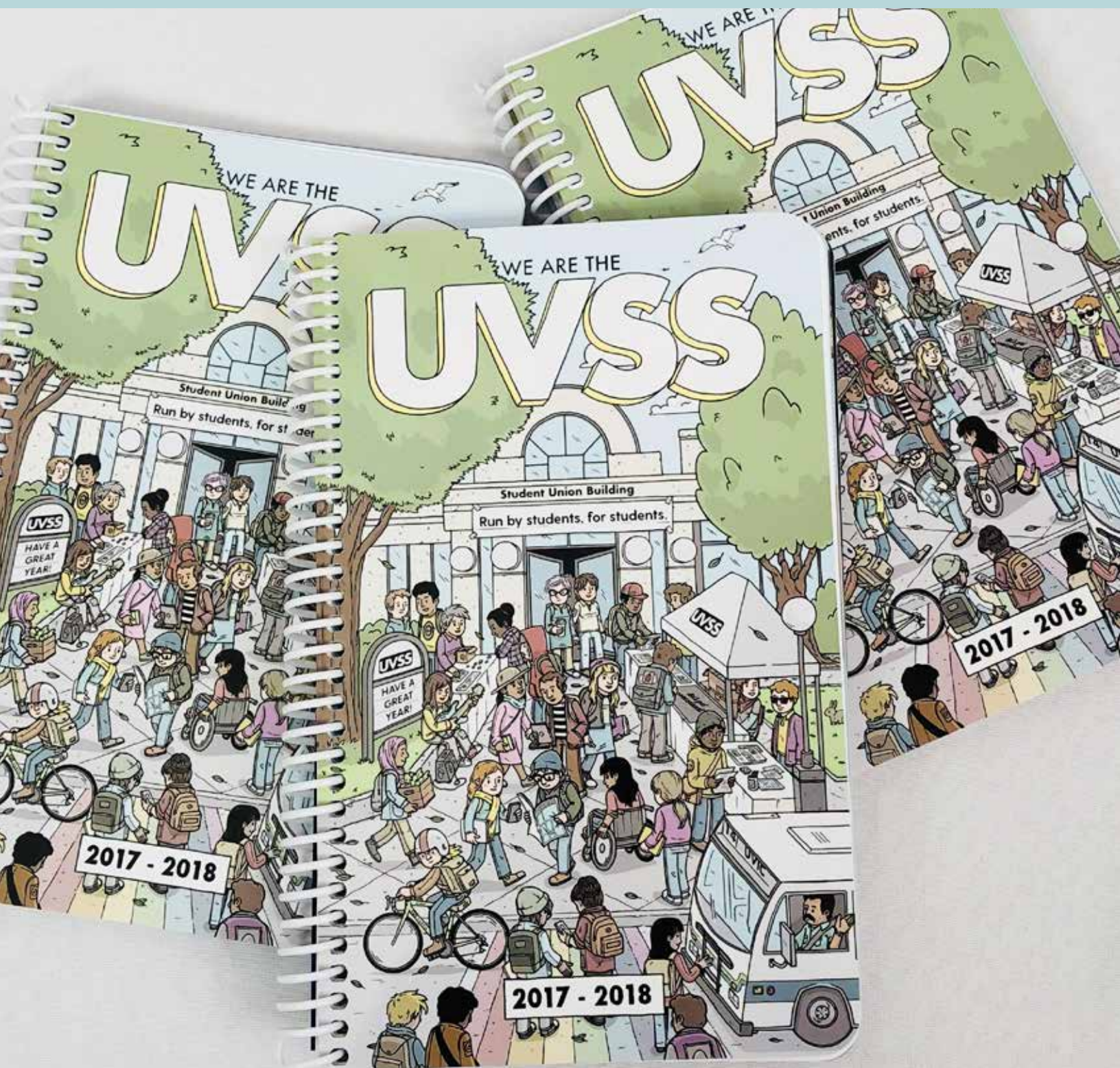
Best,

Noor Chasib

Director of Events



MEMBER OUTREACH & GOVERNANCE





Member Outreach

It's been an awesome year for outreach and we had amazing volunteers to help us out. We had volunteers show up super early for Pancake Breakfast and super late for movie night in the Quad. They stood out in the cold to help us table for campaigns such as Grants Now and Textbook Broke, as well as volunteered on committees to help with things like the health plan and town halls.

We ordered a ton of awesome swag items to hand out at Campus Kick-Off and other outreach events. Swag has been flying off the shelves since September, with our sticky notebooks, water bottles, tote bags, and pens all being close to gone as so many students have dropped by to pick them up. Our handbook has been especially successful - all 8000 were gone before December which is far ahead of our goal of 7500 by January.

Governance

This year we've made some great policy updates. The policy committee has gone through section by section and reworded and ameliorated policy from end to end. Some highlights include;

- A clarification on the relationship between UVSS Clubs and Course Unions and UVSS events.
- Dissolved the Risk Management Advisory Committee and shared its responsibility between other committees in order to empower committees to directly work on Risk Management.
- We've passed a new and comprehensive HR policy after months of collaboration and consultation with various stakeholders.



We hope that the streamlining of current policy will make it easier for future boards to keep track of and correctly implement our societies' policy.

The creation of a comprehensive HR policy that reflects years of practice as well as industry best practices is aimed at creating a better, safer, and more consistent work environment for all of our 200+ student, permanent, and excluded employees.



We've also been working on larger policy initiatives which could have long standing effects on future boards and how they function. The large-scale policy rework has been to overhaul the by-elections process. At the SAGM, student will be able to vote on whether or not they want to be able to elect interim Directors-at-Large at General Meetings much in the same way as other non-profit societies. This will not only allow the board to have a steady pool of Directors-at-Large, but it will also give power back to the people by making General Meetings more important and more relevant to the day-to-day operations of the Board.

Best,

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer

Interim Director of Outreach & University Relations



FOOD BANK & FREE STORE

2017 was an eventful year for the UVSS Food Bank and Free Store (FBFS), with a particularly dramatic rise in student demand for the services provided by the Food Bank. Throughout 2017, the Food Bank saw approximately 13,000 visits, an increase of nearly 20% compared to the number of visits logged in 2016. Notably, the months of October and December 2017 saw an exceptionally sudden rise in demand, with usage rates up 65% and 52%, respectively. This year also saw a change in the leadership of the FBFS, with longtime coordinators Jasmine Robertson and Courtney Striker moving on and being replaced by Alexandra Ages and Josephine Simpson. However, despite the change in personnel, the overall focus on food literacy and accessibility remained a core focus of the Food Bank team.

As the cost of tuition and housing continues to rise, it seems highly likely that the trend of increased food bank usage will continue. In order to meet this demand, the Food Bank relies largely on an exceptional volunteer base, currently composed of almost thirty dedicated food activists, as well as numerous community connections, particularly the UVic Food Hub and the Victoria Food

Share Network. Alongside donations of time, the consistent support of local businesses and other organizations in the form of physical donations has also allowed us to continue supporting our growing user base. In particular, we are exceptionally grateful for the continued support from Hoyne Brewing, Cobs Bread, Mustard Seed, Sea Cider Brewing, Stock-Tober and the support from UVic staff, Whole Foods, and the many individuals who have stepped forward to support us.

Going into 2018, the Food Bank and Free Store hopes to promote student support for our referendum, in which we will be asking the UVic Community to VOTE YES for the Food Bank to receive a funding increase of \$0.75 for full-time students and \$0.37 for part-time students. Though the 2017 referendum failed to meet quorum, we have high hopes that 2018 will be our year, and that with this much-needed increase in funding we will be able to both keep up with the growing student demand as well as continue to offer support for food literacy programs.

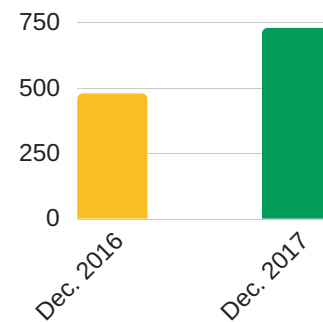


2017 Food Bank Usage

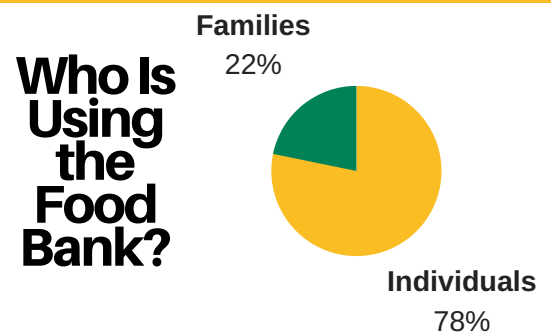
UVSS Food Bank and Free Store



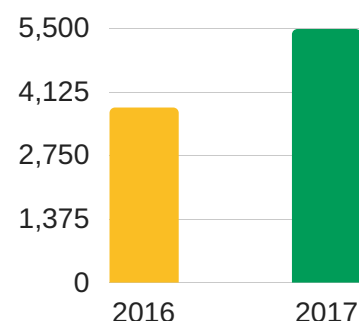
December Usage



We saw a total of 728 visits last month, up 52% from last year.



Total Usage Rates for the Fall Semester



- 5478 total visits.
- Roughly 343 per week.
- 45% increase overall



THE FRIENDSHIP BENCH

INSPIRING PEER-TO-PEER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH.

CONNECTING THOSE SUFFERING WITH ON-CAMPUS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT.

#YELLOWISFORHELLO

THEFRIENDSHIPBENCH.ORG

YELLOWISFORHELLO

