



**UWSA END OF THE
YEAR REPORT**

2017-2018



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**JEREMIAH BOWERS
2017-2018**



INTRODUCTION

Hey Lancers,

I want to first acknowledge and show my gratitude for the tireless efforts of our volunteers, staff, Board of Directors and Executives. They form the backbone of this Alliance, both on the frontlines and behind the scenes. Each day, they keep me on my feet and serve as a constant reminder that I'm here only by the privilege of your continued support, and that no matter how much we do, there is always more to be done. And I accept that not as an obstacle, but as a unique and enthusiastic challenge. Our student movement is far from done, so my promise to you is that your Alliance will never be done. Our purpose is to represent the majority while protecting and advocating for the oppressed minority. As long as there are students to keep our movement alive, there will always be an Alliance that has your back.

It's no secret that this has been a wild year for the UWSA. While we within the UWSA know all isn't what it may seem...to those outside of what is sometimes our secluded glass window, it can seem like with every election there's a new controversy. With every drama, comes another reason, to distance yourself from the UWSA. To call it corrupt. To call it useless. To call it self-serving. To call it ignorant of what the students truly want. And all these things...are true. But they are true from a perspective. And when we are a Students' Alliance that is supposed to be driven and led by students for students, it is only perspective that matters.

I'm in my second year, but this is now my fourth position within the UWSA. So, coming into my first year, I immediately jumped at the opportunity to give back to the campus community, and that was through the UWSA. So, unlike many of you here today, I've

never before seen a UWSA from outside eyes. Not until this year.

Throughout this past year, we as a Students' Alliance have lived, learned, and grew. Lived, as we went through a reality of having no President and no General Manager simultaneously. Learned, as we saw the pros and cons in dealing with the many challenges that came our way. And grew, as we've pressed forward and thrived despite those challenges. Our Students' Alliance is only as strong as the students who believe in our student movement... who see themselves as the core and driving force of our campus community. You are our identity. We, as students, don't need to ask anybody for permission to enact change. We don't need to take the power to change. We already have that power. It is you, the everyday student who gives the most to this university, that shapes this Students' Alliance. You don't need a title or position to have a voice, or to advocate for yourself in a culture that is constantly subject to phobias, oppressions, and discrimination. You just need your voice. You make us everything that we are as your Union and empowering a student experience that you deserve is the only reason we're here.

I want to leave you with a quote that's dear and near to me, by Dr. Angela Davis: "I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change...I'm changing the things I cannot accept." So, I put this to you, our Membership: what will you accept before you embrace your power to change?

Now, here are some highlights of projects and initiatives that I've worked on this year as your President alongside the Executives, Board of Directors and staff of the UWSA.



PROJECTS

Laptop Loaner Program

This was an initiative birthed by our former International Students' Representative, Kafilat. She saw an emerging need for students with limited financial resources to have the same access to education as any other student across campus. Sometimes, not having mobile and immediate access to a computer can mean an assignment that takes longer or a home life that must wait on you longer. To see if our Membership considered this a viable solution, we distributed a survey and received hundreds of responses in favour. It requires no additional fee or charge to students, as the money for such purposes has been accumulating in what we call the SOCR (i.e. technology) fund for decades. Accordingly, your Students' Alliance will be launching a free-to-use bookable Laptop Loaner pilot program for Fall 2018.

Universal Bus Pass (u-Pass)

Earlier in the semester, we put out a survey to gather student feedback on the progress of the u-Pass. We wanted to know if it was working for the students, and if not, how it could be improved, conscious of the fact that the u-Pass is going back to student referendum in Winter 2019. Hundreds of responses were received, mostly in favour of the existing u-Pass but with critical suggestions for improvement and accommodation. Accordingly, the Executives met with representatives of Transit Windsor to discuss our ongoing relationship, including successes and challenges, with the City. After our meeting, we were proud to hear that Transit Windsor will be undertaking a full service review with the hope of introducing several new buses and faster transit times.

Game Hub

Funded by the Policy Management Board of the CAW (consisting of both OPUS and UWSA), we'll be introducing the CAW Game Hub for Fall 2019. The Hub will be a central location for gaming consoles, fitted with gaming chairs and LCDs. The goal is to offer a de-stresser for students who are often submerged in academic pressure while enhancing and illuminating the student experience within the Student Centre. As well, we hope that this will drive more traffic to the basement, where other valuable services (such as the University Bookstore and The Hum) are located.

Equity Collectives

This year, we've introduced the concept of "Equity Collectives." While the word may seem odd, it is a not a new practice and has in fact been successfully executed at other Unions across Ontario. Collectives are grass-roots think tanks for marginalized communities to share common concerns and organize advocacy initiatives to combat oppressions and phobias in our campus community and society. The idea is that only those who are directly subject to such oppressions and phobias know the best means to combat them, but they are not standing alone. Through the implementation of our new policy, these Collectives will also receive the full support and resources of the UWSA to better educate our campus community.

First Year Council

Think back to when you were a first year. Most of us were trying to find our footing being among 15,000 students. Some of us may have wanted to get involved, but never saw opportunities readily available. The First Year Council will be a function of the UWSA for new Lancers to become involved and shape their own First Year experience, whether that includes planning events or advocating for the voice of our newly-welcomed Lancers.

PROJECTS

Presidents' Council

The tradition of regular meetings with the Society Presidents began back in 2014. This year, however, we formalized the Presidents' Council into the UWSA's governance structure, allowing motions to be proposed and brought directly to our Board of Directors for approval. We held monthly meetings to bridge the disconnect between UWSA and our Societies, and provided an open forum for concerns to be raised and ideas to be shared for the mutual benefit of our student experience.

UWSA Governance Reform

We have implemented and revised numerous policies. The changes to these policies have successfully transitioned the UWSA into a governance position that improves the internal operations of the UWSA to best serve our Membership.

Open Communication and Engagement

The UWSA has been determined in establishing new relationships and strengthening existing partnerships on campus, notably with Administration, Residence Services, OPUS, GSS, and StudentCare and with the City of Windsor. We have also fulfilled our goal of open communication through three streams: (1) regular bi-weekly "Prez" Updates to our Membership, which are broadcasted on all of our social media; (2) publicizing a breakdown of the UWSA and third-party fees on our UWSA website, so students are fully aware of where their money goes and how it is used; and (3) releasing a complete schedule of Board and committee meetings to inform our students of what sort of topics we're discussing and where we're discussing them.

VICTORIES

- Publicized breakdown of UWSA and third-party fees so our students know where their money goes
- Reformed UWSA policies to guarantee more efficient, accountable and effective governance
- Instituted monthly meetings of the Society Presidents' Council to maintain flow of communication and information with societies
- Created new Financial Policy to streamline financial operations and ensure fiscal accountability for UWSA and student groups
- Instituted the Laptop Loaner Service to offer free-to-use bookable laptops to students in need
- Provided Quality Club Funding to impact the most students with limited financial resources
- Implemented the First Year Council so new Lancers can shape their own first year experience
- Introduced the Game Hub concept for the CAW Student Centre
- Implemented Equity Collectives: think tanks for marginalized communities to share common concerns in a safe space and organize advocacy initiatives, with the full support and resources of the UWSA
- Established new relationships and strengthened existing partnerships on campus and with the city
- Assisted with the University Mental Health Strategy
- Improved formal Board training and resources
- Communicated Board and committee meetings to students
- Provided Bi-weekly "Prez" Updates to Membership

COMMITTEES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

University Committees

- Board of Governors
- Senate
- University Committee on Academic Promotion and Tenure (UCAPT)
- LSRC Financing Agreement Committee
- LSRC Steering Committee

Other Committees/Boards

- Governance and Policy Committee (GPC)
- Finance Committee
- Policy Management Board of the CAW (PMB)
- Alumni Association Board of Directors
- Space Planning Committee (SPC)
- Ancillary Fee Board

This year was only made possible thanks to the dedication of:

STUDENTS: Without whom we could not continue advocating, representing and serving the student movement, or break barriers, oppose phobias and stigmas, and make our voices as students (who are the real life and energy of this campus) heard and accepted

UWSA STAFF: Nicole Morrell (resigned), Maria Hamilton, Theja Ekanayake, Yoshani Jayatilaka, Meaghan Schmidt, Sandra Riccio-Muglia, and Rick Santarossa

UWSA Executives: Admirra Konjic (VP Student Advocacy), Sarah Noureddine (VP Student Services), and Sheldon Harrison (VP Finance/Operations)

Board of Governors Representative: Dastu Ibrahim

Senators: Ahmed Khalifa, Zeina Merheb, Abraham Abduelmula, Serdar Ismail, Yosra Elsayed, and Amy Bui (resigned)

UWSA Board of Directors: Hagar Elsayed, Liam Adams, Ahmed Abdallah, Amanda Skocic, Navjot Deo, Rana Habib, Andres Curbelo-Novoa, Sahibjot Grewal, Aine Donnelly, Jonabeth Martinez, Dana Attalla, and Kafilat Wole-Sowole

UWSA Services Coordinators: Sara Alshoibie, Jessica Tetreault-Fazio, Paula Ajaula-Alexis, Bree Arbor, John Antoniwi, Anthony Dalla Bona, Xana Oullette, and Micaela Nimmo



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VP Student Advocacy REPORT

**ADMIRA KONJIC
2017-2018**



VICTORIES

What's good y'all?

Admira here, it has been a wild year and I am super excited to give you guys my end of year report.

I am going to keep mine short and sweet, you already know I love all my Lancers and the way y'all have shaped our campus this year has been phenomenal. Now onto the good good.

This year we:

- Opened the convo on colonialism for Canada 150, continued the conversation with administration on how students are taught about colonialism and the land that they live on
- Discussed Islamophobia on our campus where it is visible and how we as a community can combat it, still in discussion with different faculty members on how we can implement better explained policies to avoid Islamophobia on campus
- Furthermore myself along with the one and only Ahmed Khalifa proposed a motion at the Ontario General Meeting with the Canadian Federation of

Students that commemorates January 29th as the National Day Against Islamophobia, and it passed successfully.

- Hosted a candlelight vigil to discuss bullying, racism and assault on our campus. Excellent turnout where students from different walks of life came to express their stories and explain a little bit about their victories with anti bullying implementation on campus, through their own personal discussion with faculty and administration. Still working on this with trying to implement designated distress spaces, our peer support centre is awesome but we have to discuss campus wide spaces where this can be visible.
- Hosted a campus wide protest with the Canadian Federation of Students where we discussed divesting from fossil fuels and war manufacturers, the yearly increase in tuition fees and what we can do to combat tuition fees. We recently learned that the NDP leaders announced that they would "convert the provincial portion of student loans into grants that do not have to be repaid." So our voices and rallying were heard loud and proud, so our students should be proud of the work that they did



VICTORIES

- Attended national lobby week in Ottawa to discuss Indigenous access to education, rising tuition fees and the disproportionate fees of Ontarians compared to the rest of Canada. Opened up connections with different MPs to discuss ways in which Windsor can reform its education and how the significant cuts to post secondary education has forever changed our lives. Indigenous folks still are not getting what they were promised, and we are still paying mad money for no reason. The conversations are being held, we just have to keep pushing.
- Another problem that we saw this year on our campus is the misrepresentation of black lives and anti black racism. We are opening up the conversation with a silent protest where a handful of speakers will be present to discuss in which ways they are targeted on our campus and what we can do as a community to present ally-ship and prevent racism on our campus and how these folks can flourish in their own communities.

And your girl is back for another year where this year we're going to focus on mental health, academic policy and accessibility. The work is still ongoing and we will never truly be done, but for a rocky start to an exciting year I am proud that I was able to represent you all. We grew as a community and we established ourselves we are still on the up and up. With the completion of the new downtown campuses I encourage you all to expand your horizons and get to know your campus and your students. I am super excited to back for yet another year and am looking forward to another dope year! We might be a tiny campus but we sure are mighty and we have made it clear this year just how strong we are. Thank you all for a sick year and here's to round 2! Y'all know where to find me, so come holler whenever you need!

Admira Konjic



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VP Finance & Operations REPORT

**SHELDON HARRISON
2017-2018**



VICTORIES

- Went to Student Care head office to finalize transition to new health and dental plan
- Increased minimum wages for union student employees 8 months ahead of government requirement
- As a member for LSRC Steering Committee, advocated for additional programming and retail space in planning phase of expansion – which allowed increased capacity for part time student employment in building
- Info Session speaker at the recent Clubs Fest on September 9th, instructing club and societies of the following:
 - How to apply for funding
 - Process and turnaround time
 - What is not considered supporting documentation
 - Scheduled dates for Finance Committee meetings
- Worked with Transit Windsor during student pass implementation and disbursement to union members
- Implemented hiring for and opening of Hum Café & Lounge in September 2017
- Hum Café & Lounge alcohol license and grand opening projected for fall 2018
- Sourced retailers for additional furniture in CAW basement and Board Chambers
- Conducted regular bi-monthly meetings of Finance Committee for fall and winter
 - Chaired meetings
 - Oversaw the applications and presentations of clubs and societies
 - Gave direction (as non-voting member) along with recommendations for approval
 - Advised clubs in societies in presentation process
- Met fiduciary responsibilities of position while staying below budget
- Consulted with all service coordinators to make adjustments in order to optimize services in February 2018
- Currently advocating to make amendment to job description of VP Finance to require 20% of office hours to be had at downtown campus to promote inclusivity of all faculties



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VP Student Services REPORT

**SARAH NOUREDDINE
2017-2018**



COMMENTS

- A major goal for me this year was establishing some institutional memory for the VPSS position. At the start of my term, I had not been trained by the previous executive nor was there a transition manual to guide me. This made doing annual things a lot harder because I had to rely on our Director of Student Events to guide me (shout out to Sandra xox). I have been able to successfully observe and record precedent which has helped me in developing a manual for the incoming VPSS so there is always continuity in the position as well as guidance in the absence of a VPSS.
- The Programming budget for the year has been spent. For the next term, I will be suggesting additional funds allocated to the Programming budget, so more events are possible as well as providing the next VPSS with an emergency credit card. Events always have something popping up last minute and this card will ensure that the VPSS does not have to rush authorization—especially on the weekend.

SUGGESTIONS

MY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT VPSS ARE:

- Learn good time management skills before you begin the position; unlike the other Executive positions, VPSS is not allowed a month where they are getting to know the position, Welcome Week planning starts from day one and the executive needs to be on top of that.
- Start seeing a counselor; the UWSA is a difficult and overwhelming organization to be part of. You deal with your job duties and the politics that are involved with the union. Your health should always come first.
- Ask for opinions but set limits. It's great to gauge your audience and see what your team wants to do in terms of events, but no one will like the same thing. Asking your entire board or executive what they want and giving them a huge say in Programming will slow you down. This is especially important during Welcome Week because everyone wants a say in what goes on that week. You know best though so trust your intuition and do your thing.
- Set boundaries. This is different for everyone, for me it was not checking emails past 5pm or taking time off when it was needed. Don't let the UWSA consume you because at the end of the day this is a job—not your life.

OVERVIEW

FALL SEMESTER

- We started off strong in the Fall, Welcome Week and Vendor Fair were an overall success. Our tent parties reached capacity every night and there were no major incidents
- A concert was not held this year due to miscommunication from the Production team we were working with. Not having the concert was not anyone's fault, there was just a lot of factors that need to be addressed in future planning. The money usually spent on the gala has been a loan and therefore no money from the budget was wasted or spent
- The Shielded Services had monthly meetings discussing their needs and events with the VPSS and with each other

WINTER SEMESTER

- Frost Week was a success, due to some complaints about the language used in Dirty Bingo, myself and incoming VPSS will be discussing ways to ensure our host is more conscience of the language they use
- Skate the Date Winter Carnival was our biggest event in the Winter aside from Frost Week. It was a major success even though it needed to be moved inside.
- The rest of the Winter term will be used to plan for the UWSA Awards Gala in two weeks and train and prepare the incoming VPSS. We will also be exploring the option of a concert in the Fall starting April.

UWSA Service Coordinators

- The Shielded Services are supervised by the VPSS but are given complete independence when it comes to their operations
- Every event the Services held this year was a complete success
- No service has gone over budget
- I will be meeting with the Services one-on-one, as I did in the Fall, to discuss what they are looking for in terms of support from the UWSA

