



2022 Annual Report

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

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People

Each year members of the Students' Union elect 19 members to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors appoints an additional fifteen members to serve as Members-at-Large on the Union's Committees. These individuals serve terms from May 1st to April 30th and work throughout the year to plan and implement a series of activities, events, and campaigns for students. The following pages of this report include an overview of the activities of these groups from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those members who sacrificed their time and energy to serve in 2020.

Board of Directors

President.....	Nachiket Desai
Vice President Equity	Adriana Herrera
Vice President External.....	Azul-Sky Billy
Vice President Internal	Shirlene Ndenga
Vice President Services.....	Sahil Madan
Indigenous Representative.....	Wenona Johnny
Graduate Representative.....	Vacant
LGBTQ+ Representative.....	Dallas Odsen
International Representative.....	Jannat Bhullar
Racialized Persons Representative.....	Harmilan Kaur Dang
Women's Representative.....	Oshin Jyothi Jayakumar
Campaigns Committee Representative.....	Behanaz Bahroudi
Campaigns Committee Representative.....	Anel Jazybayeva
Entertainment Committee Representative.....	Alex Duarosan
Entertainment Committee Representative.....	Bhavika Jain
Services Committee Representative.....	Essam Hannan
Services Committee Representative.....	Tanya Lekhi
University Affairs Committee Representative	Kushal Bhansali
University Affairs Committee Representative	Thao Le

Members-at-Large

Campaigns Committee Member-at-Large	Arundhati Srivastava
Campaigns Committee Member-at-Large.....	Nishant Mudgal
Entertainment Committee Member-at-Large.....	Alexandr Taibert
Entertainment Committee Member-at-Large.....	Meghna Kamboj
Entertainment Committee Member-at-Large.....	Ruchika Shetty
Equity Committee Member-at-Large	Abigail Kosmyinka
Equity Committee Member-at-Large	Mohammad Tabrez
Services Committee Member-at-Large	Cinderella Andres
University Affairs Committee Member-at-Large.....	Loshima Shongo
University Affairs Committee Member-at-Large.....	Tiana Aguiluz

Staff

Executive Director	Nathan Lane
Campaigns Coordinator	Leif Douglass
Communications Coordinator	Natalie Reisle
Entertainment Coordinator.....	Parth Patel
Services Coordinator	Simranjit Singh
Services Coordinator	Cassandra Ring
University Affairs Coordinator.....	Sierra Rae



Advocacy Collective

In 2022 the Union continued to grow the Advocacy Collective event series to build out several informational lectures, community conversations, and training opportunities for our campus and external community. Themes were chosen to inspire, develop actionable change, or create community engagement on a particular topic. The Advocacy Collective engaged over one hundred thirty (130) individuals in learning opportunities throughout seven (7) events in 2022.

Events & Workshops

Suicide Prevention Training

On January 18, 2022, the Union partnered with TRU Health and Wellness to offer a virtual Suicide Prevention Training for student leaders. The session assisted students in learning the basics about campus data, appropriate language use, and provided training on how to help others to access necessary resources, emergency services, and support. Over fifteen (15) students attended and were trained on the topic.

Housing Solutions Lecture Series: Tofino Housing Corporation

As a part of the Housing Solutions Lecture Series, on February 10th, 2022, the Union virtually hosted Ian Scott, the Executive Director of the Tofino Housing Corporation to present on the role that municipalities play in solving the housing crisis and discuss the potential solution of non-market housing. Community members, students, TRU staff, and TRU faculty members attended the event to learn more about non-market housing and discuss what that could look like in Kamloops.

Housing Solutions Lecture Series: Symbiosis Intergenerational Housing

In the final event of our Housing Solutions Lecture Series, on March 10th, 2022, the Union virtually hosted Dr. Soumeya Abed, the Director and Co-Founder of the Symbiosis Co-Housing Program, and a panel of participants from their recent pilot project. Dr. Abed discussed the pairing of students and seniors in living arrangements to save students money on rental costs and to provide seniors support and friendship. Community members, students, TRU staff, and TRU faculty members attended the event to learn more about the potential of an intergenerational housing project in our community.

Outreach Workshop

To assist committees, clubs, and Student Caucus members in conducting outreach, the Union organized an outreach

workshop on July 12, 2022. The workshop covered training on tabling, hand-billing/leafleting, and classroom speaking, to assist student leaders in communicating messaging out to their community.

Paths for People Lecture

On August 23, 2022, the Union hosted Stephen Raitz, the Chair of Paths for People, a not-for-profit that focuses on advocating for safe and accessible transportation routes in Edmonton, Alberta. The lecture covered the successful projects Paths for People has done and focused on ideas for active transportation advocacy in Kamloops. The event had a strong community and student attendance, with over thirty (30) attendees.

Reproductive Rights Briefing

As a result of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the Union invited Julia Riddle from Arvay Finlay LLP to lead a discussion on reproductive rights on October 13, 2022. The conversation centred on the decision, legal standpoint, and differences between abortion regulations in Canada and the United States. Campus and community members learned about the political landscape of reproductive rights and differences in health care access and had approximately thirty (30) attendees.

Tenants' Rights Training

On November 16, 2022, the Union hosted TRU Law Faculty member Kelly Melnyk for a training session on tenants' rights principles. As many students contend with issues in their living situation at some point during their studies at TRU, the session equipped attendees with information on common student housing concerns and where to refer folks for more assistance.



Campaigns Committee

As we move out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Students Union remains committed to advocating on behalf of our members at all levels of government. Throughout the past year, we have worked to ensure that the needs and concerns of our members are heard and addressed. 2022 has marked the turning point for the type of advocacy work we have been able to engage in, with the second half of the year marking the return to more traditional in-person advocacy efforts. We engaged in a wide variety of activities, including publicly launching a significant campaign on institutional governance reform to ensure our members voices would be heard, continuing to engage with government officials to advocate for policies that would support students and enhance their educational experiences, and work to address many other smaller scale issues.

Overall, we are proud of the progress we have made in our advocacy efforts over the past year. We have faced some significant challenges, but we have remained committed to our mission and to advancing the interests of our members. We look forward to continuing this work in the coming year and to building on the successes of the past year.

Academocracy

Background

The Academocracy campaign is a student-led effort to expand the number of student positions on the Thompson Rivers University Senate from 4 seats to approximately 15 seats. The goal of the campaign is to ensure that students have a greater voice in the decision-making processes of the university, and to ensure that a wide range of student perspectives are represented on the Senate. This structural change would bring TRU's governance structure in line with RUCBC institutions across the province such as UNBC, UBCO, and UVic

As part of the campaign, we are calling for the creation of Faculty and School specific seats on the Senate. This would allow for a more diverse range of perspectives to be included in decision-making and would help to ensure that the concerns and interests of all students are represented. We believe that this change is necessary because students play a critical role in the success of the university and their voices should be heard in the decision-making processes that affect them. By expanding the number of student seats on the Senate, we can ensure that students have a greater say in the policies and initiatives that shape their educational experience.

We are committed to working with the university community to bring this proposal forward to the provincial government in order to make this change a reality, and we believe that it

would be a positive step forward for the university as a whole. By giving students a greater voice in the decision-making processes of the university, we can help to create a more inclusive and equitable institution that is better able to serve the needs of all of its members.

Advocacy

In the winter semester work on this issue was focused on building support among faculty and staff at the institution. This work was completed largely through virtual or one-on-one meetings due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these limitations, there was widespread support for updating the TRU Senate structure. The Union made presentations to every Faculty and School at TRU, in addition to individual meetings with faculty. Over 100 faculty and staff signed letters of support as a result. This represents a significant percentage of faculty and staff at TRU and shows significant interest in updating our collegial governance structures.

In the summer semester the Union focused on preparing campaign materials for a public launch of the campaign in the fall semester. This included developing a web page, digital petition, background materials, and filming a launch video.

In the Fall 2022 semester the Union launched this campaign publicly to talk to our members. This included doing outreach at major back-to-school activities and events, in addition to regular outreach work throughout the semester. This led the Union to collect over 600 student signatures of support for the campaign in the fall semester. Overall, we are pleased with the progress we have made on the Academocracy campaign during the fall of 2022. We have been able to engage a large number of students and to build a strong foundation for our efforts moving forward. We are committed to continuing this work and to pursuing our goal of expanding the number of student seats on the Thompson Rivers University Senate.

Breaking Bread

Breaking Bread is a project from the Union that aims to connect small groups of students with community leaders through topic-based intimate conversations. The Union started this project because the personal connections that students make both on campus and in the Kamloops community are a big part of finding success during their studies as well as after graduation. The aim of this project is to help students build community, share perspectives, and foster community connections.

Campaigns – 2022 Annual Report

Discussions hosted in this series remained largely in a virtual format, with a return to in-person discussions occurring in fall 2022. The community leaders who took a leadership role in each discussion were mostly faculty members from both TRU and other universities across the country. Students from a wide variety of faculties took part in each discussion, providing opportunities for them to connect with each other in new ways.

JANUARY 26, 2022

International Students Experiences with TRU Dean of Science Greg Anderson and TRU Assistant Dean of Student Development Sara Wolfe

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Anti-Blackness in Higher Education with Dr. Funké Aladejebi

MARCH 7, 2022

The World of Cryptocurrency with Dr. David Andolfatto

MARCH 10, 2022

Legal Aid Work in the 21st Century with Kelly Melnyk, John Gustafson, and Kathy Kendall

NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Students Experiences of Racism with Dr. Evelyn Asiedu

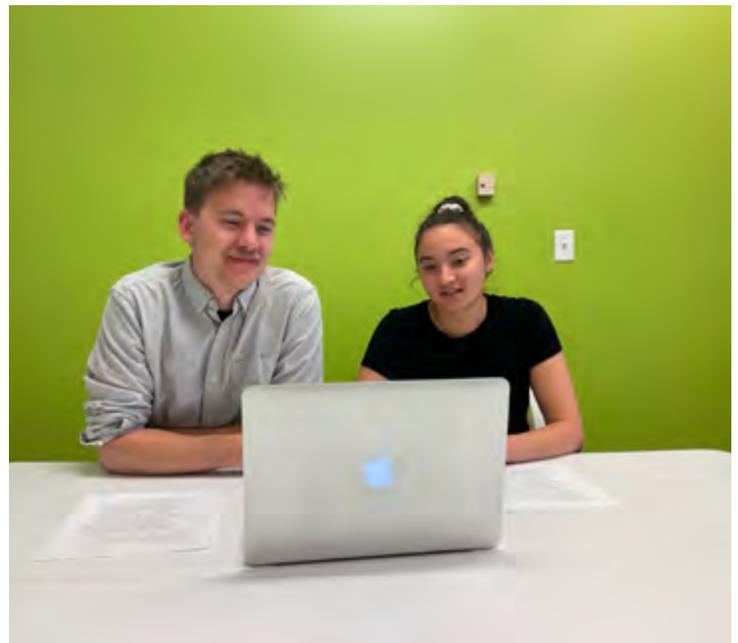
Budget Recommendations

It is important for post-secondary students to have their priorities considered by government in order to ensure that the programs and initiatives that impact their lives are adequately funded and supported. The Union, as the representative body for TRU students, is uniquely positioned to provide insight and expertise on the specific needs and challenges faced by students. By making annual budget recommendations to government, the Union is able to advocate for increased funding and support for programs and initiatives that are critical to the success and well-being of students. This not only helps to improve the experiences and outcomes of individual students, but also has the potential to positively impact the broader community and education system.

Each year the Union makes recommendations to municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government. This includes meeting with local elected representatives to share student priorities directly and answer questions.

Municipal Priorities

In Winter 2021 the Union developed a municipal priorities document on behalf of our members and set up meetings with the Mayor and City Councillors to share both the document and answer questions of elected officials.



The priorities document of the Union included four recommendations for 2022. The first recommendation was that the City of Kamloops should continue to focus on affordable housing for its residents. With the increasing cost of living, it is important that the city works to ensure that housing remains affordable for all members of the community, particularly for students who often are price sensitive.

The second recommendation was for the City to consider launching a pilot project to provide free menstrual products in public facilities. Menstrual products can be expensive and are a necessary part of daily life for many people. By providing these products for free, the city could help to reduce the financial burden on residents and ensure that everyone has access to the products they need.

The third recommendation was for the City to allocate appropriate resources for a transition from a physical UPASS to a digital UPASS. Many students rely on public transportation to get to and from school and work, so ensuring a smooth transition is important for many of our members.

Our final recommendation was that the City should continue to invest in active transportation near the TRU campus. This area has a high density of pedestrians but relatively under-developed infrastructure.

Further, the Union set up meetings in January and February 2022 with the mayor and a majority of councillors to share these priorities, give elected official the opportunity to ask questions, and get more information on any recent work in these areas that the City is currently engaged in.

In the final month of 2022, the Union has also started to develop budget priorities for 2023 to share with the newly elected mayor and councillors. The Union looks forward to

continuing to engage with municipal decision-makers on behalf of students in the year ahead.

Provincial Priorities

The Union made a series of recommendations to the provincial government in June 2023 regarding budget priorities for post-secondary education. This included both developing a research brief as well as making a presentation to the MLA's appointed to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

The first recommendation was to expand the BC Access grant, which provides financial assistance to eligible students pursuing post-secondary education. By increasing funding for this program, the Union hopes to make post-secondary education more accessible for students from low-income backgrounds.

The second recommendation was to create a provincial strategy for international students. Currently, international students are subject to a patchwork of policies and programs at the institutional level, which can create confusion and inconsistency. By developing a centralized approach, the Union believes that the government can better support international students and help them integrate into the post-secondary system.

Finally, the Union recommended that the government restore funding for apprenticeship offices. These offices could provide enhanced support and resources to students pursuing careers in the trades. With the expansion of compulsory trades training in a number of areas in BC we expect there to be an increasing number of students who need support. By restoring funding for these offices, the Union hopes to better support trades students and help them build successful careers.

Overall, the Union's recommendations are aimed at making post-secondary education more accessible, supportive, and effective for all students. In conjunction with these recommendations, the Union also organized a meeting with local MLAs for Kamloops North and Kamloops South to share these recommendations, answer questions, and learn about any progress currently being made on these issues.

Federal Priorities

Each year the federal Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) hosts a pre-budget consultation to hear from organizations across the country on their priorities for the upcoming federal budget. In July 2022, the Union made a written submission to FINA with recommendations to help students find employment and housing, but also on broader issues that all Canadians are reckoning with.

The Union's first recommendation was to continue expanding the Canada Summer Jobs program, which provides funding for employers to create summer job opportunities for students. By increasing funding for this program, TRUSU hopes to

create more job opportunities for students and help them gain valuable work experience.

The Union's second recommendation was for the federal government to create a new international student strategy. With numerous changes to the global post-secondary education environment occurring in the last few years, a new strategy would help give institutions, and students themselves, confidence and clarity.

The Union's third recommendation was that the government host a federal inquiry into residential schools. These institutions and policies have had a lasting impact on Indigenous communities, and TRUSU believes that a thorough and honest inquiry is necessary in order to help heal and reconcile.

The Union's fourth recommendation was for the federal government to create a national housing strategy for young Canadians. The current national housing strategy was released in 2017 and since then access to safe and affordable housing has only become more urgent across the country. Specifically, the current strategy does not include an approach for young Canadians, many of whom are rapidly being priced out of ever owning their own home.

The final recommendation was that the government permanently implement the doubling of the Canada Student Grants program. This program provides financial assistance to eligible students pursuing post-secondary education. TRUSU believes that increased funding is necessary in order to make post-secondary education more accessible for all students.

Post-Secondary Funding Review

Over the past six years the Union has consistently advocated for the re-evaluation of how post-secondary education is funded in BC. TRU is one of the lower funded post-secondary institutions across the province, which poses numerous challenges for both domestic students as well as international students, whose tuition is used to make up the difference. This broad advocacy work, which included over 4000 petitions of support from students, faculty, staff, and community members as well as 30 letters of support from municipalities and organizations in the region, successfully resulted in the BC Government announcing a funding re-evaluation process that started in summer 2022.

The Union participated in this process through hosting a campus consultation with approximately 25 students, faculty, and staff in June 2022. Notes from participants in this session informed a research brief of funding issues to address that was submitted to the process set out by the provincial government in July 2022. The Union is currently waiting on next steps in this consultation process to be announced.

Municipal Election

The recent municipal election saw the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union take several steps to engage students and encourage them to exercise their right to vote.

On October 5, 2022, we invited all candidates for council and mayor to come to campus and speak to our members at an event we called "Coffee and Candidates". This gave students the opportunity to learn more about the different options on the ballot and ask questions of the candidates in person. To make the event even more appealing, we offered free coffee and doughnuts to 200 students who attended. This was well-received by our students, who appreciated the chance to engage with the candidates and learn more about their platforms.

Next, we worked with election officials to host a polling station on campus one week later on October 12, 2022. This made it easy and convenient for students to cast their ballots, and many took advantage of the opportunity to do so. By providing this service, we ensured that our students had the opportunity to have their voices heard in the election.

In addition, we launched a website with profiles of all the candidates. This provided our members with important

information about the candidates and their positions on key issues. This was an important resource for our students, who were able to use it to make an informed decision on election day.

Finally, to raise important issues leading up to the Election the Union partnered with Red Beard Café to host Chuck Mahron of Strong Towns to give a lecture to both students and community members at the Paramount Theatre. This lecture focused on making Kamloops a more livable and resilient community.

Overall, our efforts to engage students in the election were successful. Many of them took advantage of the opportunities we provided to learn more about the candidates and the issues at stake. We believe that by providing these resources, we helped to empower our students and encourage them to participate in the democratic process.

Menstrual Equity

Providing free menstrual products in public washrooms helps to ensure that people who menstruate have access to the products they need in a safe and convenient location. This is especially important for people who may not be able to afford to purchase menstrual products on their own, or for those who may find themselves in a situation where they need access to these products unexpectedly. Further, providing free products helps to reduce the stigma and taboo surrounding menstruation, as it shows that menstruation is a normal and natural part of life. This can help to create a more inclusive and respectful environment for everyone.

In 2022, the Union worked to make free menstrual products more available both on-campus and in the community more broadly.

In the community, the Union is pleased to report on the success of working with the City to launch a pilot project starting in 2023 to provide free menstrual products in four facilities across the community. This initiative was designed to address the issue of period poverty and improve access to menstrual products for those in need. We look forward to dispensers being installed in January 2023 and thank the City for their interest in this project. We look forward to continuing to work to expand this initiative across the City in the years ahead.

On campus, the Union worked with TRU Facilities to address issues with maintenance and product stocking of menstrual products. A number of students had reported issues with dispensers being broken or out of product on a regular basis. The Union met multiple times in Fall 2022 with the head of TRU's facilities to ensure that this issue is being monitored. All dispensers should be regular checked and stocked starting in January 2023.

The Union has also explored proposing working with T'Kemplups to start a pilot project to provide free menstrual products in one of their facilities. To date, the Union has not





been successful in moving this project forward but looks forward to continuing efforts in 2023.

Solidarity Work

Finally, the Union took a number of actions in 2022 to be in solidarity with the struggles of people around the world, particularly those places where a number of international students studying at TRU are from.

Over the summer semester, the Union raised awareness and money for Doctors Without Borders and their work in Ukraine. The ongoing war happening there has impacted many Ukrainian students at TRU and their families. The Union's goal in the summer semester was to remind the campus community about this war, particularly as media attention began to wane.

In the fall semester the Union hosted an event in solidarity with the protests in Iran. Many students at TRU are from Iran and have been deeply affected by the events there. On October 3, 2022 the Union hosted a table outside Old Main with Iranian students and the campus community was invited to learn about what is happening in Iran, sign a petition in support, and write messages of support on a banner.



TRU
WOLFPACK

WOLFPACK

TRU

TRU

TRU

TRU

LOVE
WINS

TRUSU
PRIDE

CELEBRATE
PRIDE

LOVE
IS
LOVE

TRU
a place for everyone

Equity Committee

In 2022, the Union continued raising awareness of the systemic oppression of marginalized groups in society and challenging that oppression where possible. This included a series of events and campaigns as well as work with TRU to address campus issues with a focus on Indigenous people, women, visible minorities/racialized people, LGBTQ+ people, poor/working-class people, and other marginalized groups in society.

Indigenous Course Requirement

TRU has made several efforts to encourage both faculties and schools as well as individual faculty members to incorporate indigenous content into their programming and curriculum as means of fulfilling its commitment to indigenization. This voluntary approach has resulted in mediocre results in comparison to other post-secondary institutions that have chosen to implement a mandatory indigenization course for all students into its academic planning. Given the reported success of the mandatory course approach, the Union began exploring the potential for a mandatory indigenization course with the end goal of presenting a report calling on TRU to investigate the potential model for implementation here.

Through the Winter 2022 semester the Union met with representatives from the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba, and Yukon University to discuss their implementation of a mandatory indigenization course for all students to document how their programming was implemented, challenges that were faced, and how the model is currently working for them. The Union learned a great deal about the successes and failures of such an initiative and looks forward to sharing those experiences with others here at TRU as its moves this project forward in 2023.

National Indigenous Peoples Day

On Tuesday, June 21, 2022 the Union hosted a campus outreach event to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day and educate the campus community on various aspects of Canada's Indigenous communities and their culture. The Union distributed Bannock and educational materials and had many great conversations with students regarding indigenous culture and indigenization of post-secondary education. The event was well received by the membership and was particularly well attended by international students who showed a tremendous interest in learning about Canada's indigenous communities and their culture.

Protecting Reproductive Rights

Following the fundamental and troubling change to the Roe v Wade legal precedent in the United States, international organization Amnesty International launched a campaign seeking global partners to engage their communities to send messages to American legislators regarding reproductive rights. On July 12, 2022 the Union set up an Amnesty International Solidarity action event to support global reproductive rights. The campus table provided an opportunity for members of the campus community to digitally lobby American legislators and to have broader conversations about reproductive rights. Feedback regarding this initiative was extremely positive.

Ending HIV Stigma

Despite decades of research which clearly outlines in detail various aspects of HIV, many of those afflicted with the virus face significant discrimination on a daily basis due to false information and a poorly informed public.

During the Summer 2022 the Union organized several activities both on and off campus to seek to educate the broader community regarding HIV Stigma and to provide





the community with accurate population health information regarding the virus. The Union hosted two campus outreach tables and a community table at the Kamloops Farmers Market, receiving a positive response from many grateful community members.

CUPE Public Childcare Campaign

The Union was pleased to be able to utilize its outreach skills at the Back to School BBQ to jointly host a table to support the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) public childcare campaign. The Union worked collectively with provincial and local CUPE representatives to get signatures of support for the restoration of onsite after school care. Over 700 members signed the petition on that day and many folks learned about the challenges facing British Columbia's childcare system. The action was considered to be very successful by both the Union and its partners in the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Union hopes to be able to continue to find ways to support the Public Childcare campaign in the future.

TRUSU Pride Parade

On October 04, 2022 the Union was pleased to be able to host its 11th Annual TRUSU Pride Parade. The parade featured speakers from Thompson Rivers University, The Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association, The Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 4879, and the Kamloops Pride Society; as well as a campus march to declare the TRU Kamloops campus as a safe space for all. After several years without an in-person pride parade due to Covid restrictions, the Union was pleased to see a strong turnout from the campus and broader community and looks forward to re-establishing this event as core part of the annual campus activities. Further, the Union was excited to partner with the TRUSU Pride Club to host a sign making event before the parade which had a large turnout and created an opportunity for members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies to come together in advance of the parade. Given the success of this event it is likely to become an ongoing feature of the Unions Pride Parade organizing.

TRU Equity Community Gathering

Over the past several years there has been an exponential growth of equity-based activities on campus. Each year new

committees and working groups, in addition to well established labour unions, societies and departments increase their portfolio of equity work. This has been extremely beneficial for the advancement of equity work but has largely been uncoordinated and resulted in duplication of effort and poor communication. As result in May 2022 the Union committed to bring folks together from a range of campus groups and departments to share their planned activities, foster better communication, and create the opportunity for potential collaboration. The Union hosted the first TRU Community Equity Gathering in August 2022 and plans to host a second gathering early in 2023. Looking forward, the Union will continue to do its best to bring folks together and share information until such time as a TRU Equity Office can assume that role.

Promoting Healthy Consensual Relationships

As a component of its ongoing work to address sexual violence, the Union hosted three campus outreach events on November 07, 2022; November 14, 2022; and November 23, 2022. The campus-based outreach tables distributed materials to members to help facilitate conversations about consent. Despite poor weather conditions, which reduced the number of members that approached the table, the Union reported having been able to engage in positive conversations with members and appreciation for activity and tool. The Union will continue to refine this outreach if future installments are to be implemented.



University Affairs Committee

Throughout the return to campus in 2022, the Union continued to engage in our university community for positive change and to improve the educational experience for our membership. This included the ongoing support and development of two university affairs programs, the Student Caucus and Together TRU. These programs created new opportunities for changes to TRU's operations and government while supporting student participation in campus decision-making. Additionally in fall 2022, the Union lead a campaign to address the proposed changes to the international student tuition fee structure.

Student Caucus

The Student Caucus is the group of student representatives that serve across TRU's governance system. The program ran for a successful twelfth year thanks to the ongoing dedication of student representatives continuing to volunteer their participation. The development of new training resources, a public meeting format, and new engagement opportunities allowed for an increase in Student Caucus member participation across university activities. Additional areas for student participation were created and found throughout TRU's governance, which led to the largest Student Caucus team yet. In September 2022 Student Caucus recruitment, orientation, meetings, and engagement activities returned to an in-person format.

Recruitment

Each year the Union recruits, interviews, selects, and appoints or nominates student representatives across TRU's university governance system for a one-year term starting on October 1st. In September 2022 after a successful recruitment period with both in-person and virtual outreach, the Union received 154 applications. Each applicant was offered an interview slot to discuss their interest, experience, and availability for the open positions. 73 students were selected for appointment or nomination to serve across TRU's governance system.

Orientation & Training

The Union provides regular orientation and training opportunities for all selected Student Caucus members. In 2022 there were several new training opportunities provided and the orientation returned to an in-person format, allowing for additional team-building and hands-on activities.

On October 1, 2022, selected Student Caucus members attended the annual orientation. This included a teambuilding activity, an introduction to the TRU Students' Union and the Student Caucus, an introduction to University Governance,

an overview of participating in a university committee, and a mock-committee meeting.

On July 12, 2022, the Union hosted an outreach workshop for tabling, hand-billing/leafleting, and classroom speaking. This was particularly beneficial for Student Caucus members in advance of the Together TRU and International Student Tuition Fee Increase outreach and assisted students in learning the value in building a clear communication method.

Additionally, the Union developed 4 new online training resources, including an overview of the student caucus, TRU's university governance, participating in a university committee, and how to prepare and provide an efficient report.

Student Caucus Meetings

The Student Caucus met twelve (12) times in 2022 to connect and share information from internal and external leaders from across the post-secondary sector. Student Caucus meetings were moved back to an in-person format in September 2022, resulting in increased participation and engagement opportunities. During these meetings, Student Caucus members received information, updates, or provided feedback on the following:

- TRU's Student Housing Strategy
- TRU's Writing Centre
- Future of Open Education Report
- TRUSU Board of Directors Elections
- Campus Study Space Review
- Reimagining Advising at TRU
- TRU Food Services Update
- TRU Zero Waste Plan Review
- TRU Student Residence Long-term Planning
- Student Mental Wellness
- Student Caucus Feedback Session
- Welcome to TRU's Governance
- UBC Property Trust
- TRU Makerspace Feedback Review
- Academocracy
- Open Education History & Future at TRU



Student Caucus One-on-One Sessions

In October and November 2022, Student Caucus members met with the Unions' University Affairs Coordinator to review their committee experience, ask questions about their role, and discuss any upcoming opportunities for engagement. These one-on-one check ins were well received by Student Caucus members and assisted in the identification of individual needs and participation availability for upcoming projects.

Engagement

Outside of monthly Student Caucus meetings, the Union engages Student Caucus members through a variety of governance meetings, projects, and feedback sessions throughout the year. In 2022 over seventy (70) Student Caucus members attended Board of Governors and Senate Meetings, conducted Together TRU outreach, and participated in feedback and consultation sessions.

Together TRU

Together TRU seeks to identify unique opportunities for collaborative work and to recognize broad themes of student priorities to create positive change on campus. Together TRU bridges student ideas and concerns with ongoing campus projects and potential institutional partners. In 2022 the program developed to include Student Caucus members in outreach and ongoing projects.

In Summer and Fall 2022, Student Caucus members completed four (4) days of tabling to ask students to provide input on two topics: their experience as a summer student and their return to campus in Fall 2022. These tabling sessions provided Student Caucus members with an opportunity to connect directly with the Unions' members about feedback they had on their campus

experience. Feedback was collected using posterboards and social media. Students expressed their experience with course offerings, program dates and deadlines, orientation, campus services, and academic support. Out of the collected feedback several projects were developed. Additional projects were proposed by campus partners or identified as an opportunity by the Union.

Together TRU projects are organized for Student Caucus members to collaborate with campus partners and discuss potential solutions for campus improvements. In 2022 the Union completed six (6) Together TRU projects and will continue ongoing project work into 2023.

Student Co-Chair Guidelines Creation

To support positions for student leadership, the Union partnered with the Faculty of Student Development and members of the Student Success Committee to develop a framework for student co-chair positions across TRU's governance committees in April 2022. The framework package included a personal letter and recommendations on time commitment, responsibilities, involvement, selection, and support. Two (2) committees at TRU currently host a student co-chair position. In 2023, the Union will continue to present to university decision-making bodies, requesting them to consider building student co-chair roles into their membership rosters and terms of reference.

Future of Open Education at TRU Report

In February 2022 the Union partnered with the Open Education Working Group to engage members in a feedback conversation on the future of open education here at TRU and engaged students in a survey about their experiences with open educational resources, open pedagogy, open research, and open publishing. Following that participation, the Union



provided a letter in support of open education at TRU and assisted in the development of a report to summarize TRU's current involvement in open education. The Future of Open Education at TRU report was submitted to the TRU Office of the Provost in advance of current requests for sustainable funding sources.

Re-Imagining Advising Consultation

In March 2022 the Union participated on and partnered with the Re-Imagining Advising Working Group to gather student input on the future of academic advising at TRU. Student Caucus members were asked to provide feedback on what advising means to them, their experience using academic advising, their communication with an advisor, and highlight any potential concerns in the current system. When the Re-Imagining Academic Advising Working Group disbanded,

the Academic Advising Steering Committee was created to continue implementation of changes to the current advising system.

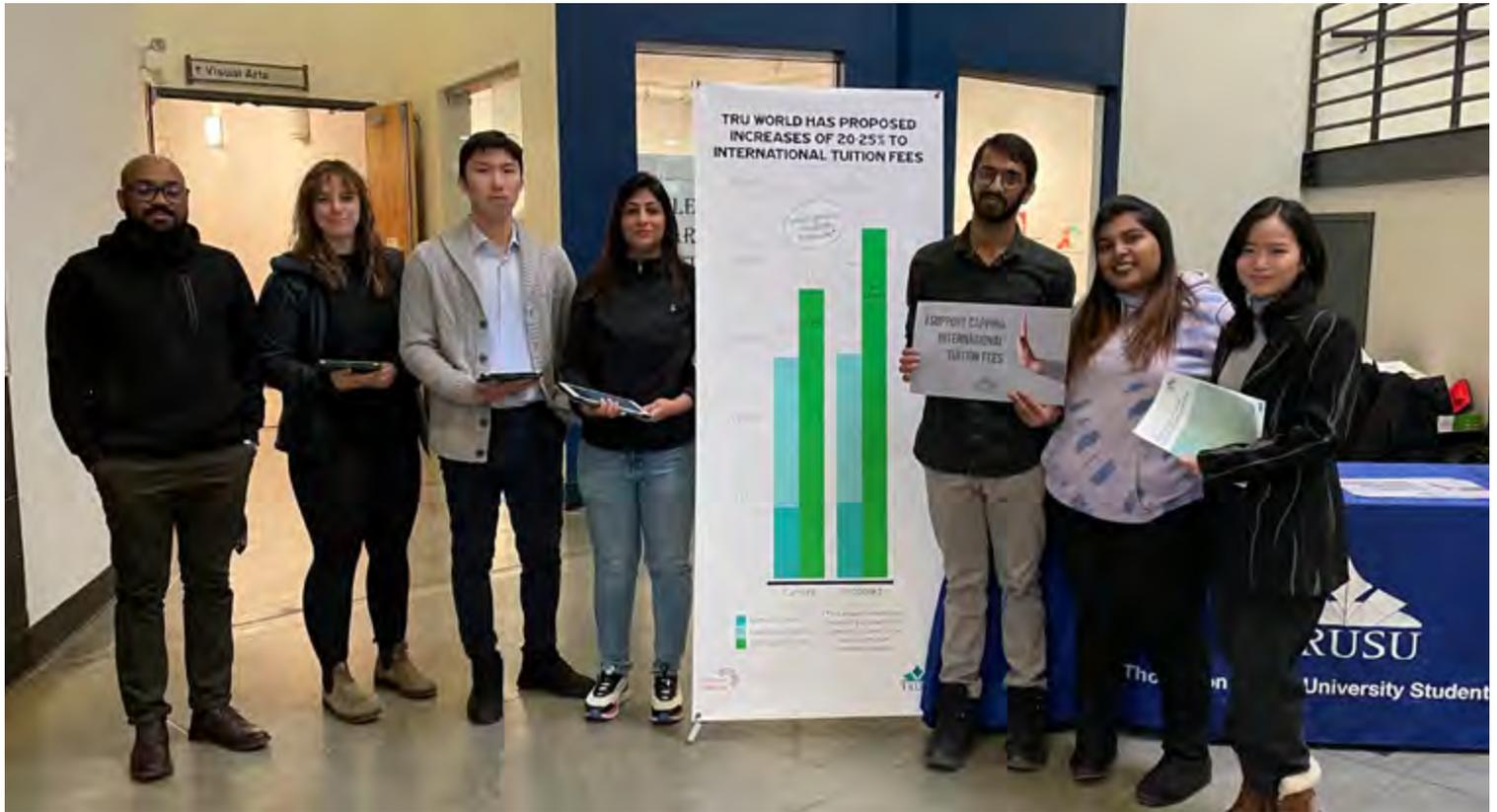
TRU Makerspace Consultation

In January 2022 the Union partnered with the TRU Library to gather student input in advance of the opening of the TRU Makerspace. Student Caucus members toured the space and provided feedback for the potential usage. In November 2022, The TRU Makerspace returned to the Student Caucus to update members on the status of any requests, which included changes to accessibility as well as additions and updates to the technology (podcasting, music, computer prototyping, VR labs, and 3D printing).

Leading Practices on Student Rental Agreements Review

In Fall 2022 the Union partnered with TRU Facilities and Residences to align the North Tower, McGill Housing, East Village, and West Gate residences with the BC Leading Practices for Student Housing Agreements. The provincial Leading Practices set out guidelines for how a university should build and maintain its residence agreements, highlighting policies and practices including the appeal process, maintenance and unit moves, rental increases and contract dates. The Union identified areas where TRU was meeting or exceeding the leading practices and identified opportunities for improvement to the TRU Community Living Standards Agreement and Student Residence Agreement.





These included the creation of an appeals committee, additional information on the creation and submission of maintenance requests, the development of a Displaced Students Protocol, and updates to the current practices. Work for this project will continue with a feedback session for each residence planned in February and March 2023.

Academic Appeals Process Consultation

In November 2022 the Union partnered with Student Affairs to discuss updates to the process for students who submit an academic appeal. Student Caucus members were invited to participate in a feedback session on the current appeals form and policy to suggest changes to improve the current system. Feedback was compiled by Student Affairs and changes will be implemented in Winter 2023.

Community Safety Information & Consultation Session

In November 2022 the Union partnered with TRU Risk Management, Facilities, Residences, and Student Affairs to hold an information and feedback session on community safety. The session invited fifteen (15) students to present their ideas and opinions on how TRU can achieve a safer, lower-risk campus environment. Following a presentation from TRU Risk Management, students provided feedback on the accessibility of emergency services, on-campus lighting, medical services, and bike parking. Feedback was provided to the relevant

campus departments for review and action items will be followed up on in Spring 2023.

International Student Financial Aid Access

In Spring 2022 discussions surrounding TRU's current available financial aid for international students were initiated to identify overall access and eligibility. The Union partnered with the TRU Advancement Office to review all six hundred and eighty-eight (688) TRU awards and scholarships for potential modification to include international students. The Union identified 62 scholarships and awards that could be reviewed for inclusivity, and suggested systems for needs-based financial aid and awards access for international students. The Union will be continuing to work with the TRU Advancement Office to update new and incoming awards and improve access to financial aid for international students.

University Lobbying

The Union additionally engages in institutional campaigns to advocate for student rights during their education here at TRU. In 2022, the Union identified a need for university lobbying to address student concerns around the proposed increases to international student tuition fees.

International Student Tuition Fee Increase Response

On October 07, 2022, TRU World brought forward a three (3) year proposal to the TRU Board of Governors that called for a twenty percent (20%) increase to undergraduate student and twenty-five percent (25%) increase to graduate student tuition fees. In response to their proposal, the Union created a report, conducted campus outreach, and presented our recommendations to the TRU Board of Governors.

The Union created a report that outlining alternative options to TRU Worlds original proposal. The response prepared by the Union made two (2) recommendations. The first recommendation requested the reduction of the tuition deposit amount and an extension of the payment calendar deadlines. The second recommendation asked for a cap on international student tuition increases at a 2% annual maximum. This report was submitted to the TRU Board of Governors.

With the opportunity to present our report at the next meeting, in November 2022 the Union conducted two days of outreach to inform students of the recommendations being made and encourage them to show their support by attending the meeting. During the outreach, over five hundred (500) students learned about the proposed increase and signed up for a notification to learn more about the upcoming Board of Governors meeting.

On December 09, 2022, the Union gave a presentation to the TRU Board of Governors that conveyed the two (2) recommendations in the International Student Tuition



Recommendations Report. Over fifty (50) students attended to hear the presentation and show support for TRU making the right decision when it comes to future tuition fee increases. The Union will continue this work into 2023, as on February 24th the TRU Board of Governors will be deciding on any potential international student tuition fee increases.





Services Committee

Throughout 2022 the Union continued to deliver a consistent and comprehensive range of services to save members time and money, create community, and support and encourage academic success. The Union implemented many new projects that focused on the health and well-being of students to ensure an excellent experience at TRU throughout their academic journey.

Students Union Building

In 2022 the Union had tremendous success with the operation of its Student Union Building. The Union returned to and surpassed its pre-covid volumes for room bookings. The Union also noted an increased use of its public spaces by students, faculty, and staff. The Union has been pleased to see the resurgence of the Students' Union Building as a vibrant public space on campus in 2022.

While the Students' Union Building continues to be a popular destination for the campus community to gather, several aspects of the Students' Union Building and its equipment have begun to approach the end of their useful life. In May 2022, the Board of Directors approved projects to upgrade furniture and equipment. Additionally, the Union is planning to revitalize its Members Service Desk considering upcoming changes to the administrative processes related to the UPASS. The Union looks forward to the launch and completion of these projects in Winter 2023.

On-Campus Legal Clinic

In Fall 2022 the Union launched its first On-Campus Legal Clinic Pop-Ups as a component of the long-term partnership agreement the Union secured with the TRU Community Legal Clinic. The Union hosted Pop-Up Clinics on September 28, 2022; October 19, 2022; and November 16, 2022. These clinics supported twelve (12) members with legal assistance across a range of matters. While this partnership remains relatively new, feedback from members and the TRU Community Legal Clinic was positive. The Union looks forward to growing the partnership and service in the coming years.

TRUSU Grants

The TRUSU Grants program provides members with funding to host extracurricular club and educational activities and attend conferences. In 2022, the Union's Grants program continued to fund conferences, club events, and various educational activities on campus. While the Union had hoped to return to pre-covid application numbers and funding levels in 2022, we

were not able to achieve that goal. We will be working over the coming year to build back awareness of the program with students, staff, and faculty on campus.

In 2022, the Union allocated \$146,625 to fifty-seven conference grant applications, sending two hundred and seventy-five students to conferences from Vancouver, BC to Paris, France.

The Union allocated \$61,912 to seventy-five events hosted by TRUSU Clubs ranging from social events to workshops. These activities were attended by approximately 3,000 students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Finally the program funded twenty-four educational activities intended to support extended learning outside the classroom in the amount of \$87,586 and attended by more than 1,500 students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Financial Aid

The Union offers two types of financial aid to help support members: the TRUSU Endowment Fund, and TRUSU Emergency Bursaries. The Union believes students should be characterized by their intellect and efforts, and not their financial worth. The Union is proud to invest in these programs to further support students on their educational journeys.

The TRUSU Endowment Fund

In 2007 the Union established an endowment fund with the TRU Foundation to support need-based student financial aid for its members. As of April 2022, the current balance of the Union's endowment fund was \$713,299.30.

Each year the Union contributes \$15,000.00, matched by the provincial government up to \$5000.00, to grow the endowment and increase the Union's ability to provide financial aid. In 2022, the Union's contributions, along with the endowments accumulated interest, provided 37 students with bursaries totaling \$47,296.79 in assistance. The Union looks forward to continuing to invest in supporting our members through the growth of our endowment.

Emergency Bursary

The Union resources the TRUSU Emergency Bursary program, designed to provide a support for students facing unforeseen financial emergencies. Students who identify an unforeseen need can request a bursary through Financial Aid and Awards to help cover their immediate needs. The Union contributes \$10,000.00 annually to the emergency bursary fund to ensure that students have access should a crisis arise. In 2022, the Union's Emergency Bursary program gave 13 students a

bursary totaling \$11,900.00. The current balance of the fund is at \$5,112.50. The Union will continue to support students who face emergency financial needs in the future.

TRUSU Clubs

The Union's clubs range from academic, common interest, and cultural clubs on campus. Facilitating or being a part of a club allows members to build and utilize their leadership skills and make new social connections within the Union. The Union supports campus clubs by providing services, resources, and assistance. The Union had hoped to return to pre-covid support levels for clubs in 2022, but we were not able to achieve that goal and will be working to build back awareness of the resources available to clubs and campus groups in the coming year.

In 2022, the Union resourced close to one hundred clubs, including the twenty-seven newly formed clubs. Many club events included competitions, game nights, alumni panels, and workshops.

The Union also hosted two club leader orientations for the newly registered and returning clubs on February 05, 2022, and October 01, 2022. At these meetings, campus club leaders received information about the legal and financial responsibilities of the signing authorities, club insurance coverage, access to club services, club funding, and everything else needed to run clubs successfully. This meeting also served as a networking opportunity for club leaders and provided them with a brief event planning workshop.

Additionally, TRUSU clubs were introduced to further opportunities to receive training and information. In 2022 the Union hosted a two-day course to receive Mental Health First Aid Certifications and a Naloxone Training with community outreach nurses. The Union looks forward to offering these types of engagement opportunities to club leaders in the future and will continue to invest in the growth of the clubs and campus groups community in the years to come.

Health and Dental Plan

The TRUSU extended health and dental plan has been helping to support students' health and wellness for over a decade. The plan ensures that all students have equal access to extended benefits and that students continue to be healthy throughout their studies.

In 2022, the Union's Extended Health and Dental Plan continued to provide exceptional coverage to members. The plan continued to feature 100% drug coverage; 80% coverage on professional services, such as chiropractors or podiatrists; 100% coverage of optical exams and glasses; 80% coverage on basic dental services; accidental death and dismemberment insurance; and travel insurance. In conjunction with these comprehensive coverage options, reasonable co-payment amounts, and annual benefit maximums, the Union has



ensured that premiums paid by the Health and Dental Plan fee have remained sustainable. The fee is \$248.00 per year and is automatically applied to members who are eligible. A similar plan on the private market would cost individual members upwards of \$2,000 a year.

In 2022, the Union saw the Health and Dental Plan grow, with approximately 5,659 members enrolled on the plan, and an additional 268 student opt-ins, 41 single dependent opt-ins, and 45 family opt-ins. The Union will continue to review the quarterly reports and make any adjustments needed during the annual renewal of the plan.

Health and Dental Newsletters

The Union worked hard to ensure that members had information on how to access and use their plans. We achieved this by sending out newsletters to all members who are registered on the plan with Greenshield Canada. The health and dental newsletters were sent out monthly and curated each month to highlight different aspects of the plan. The first newsletter was a "Welcome to the Plan" email that gave students information on how to access and use their plans. This strategy proved effective, and we received many student responses that identified additional questions or issues with their plans. The Union will continue to curate and send out newsletters to keep members informed about their health and dental plan.

TRUSU Wellness Series

The Union was excited to establish and implement a wellness series directed at students to support their health and wellness. In fall 2022 the Union was able to partner with Kamloops Hot Yoga, K-Spin Studio, Tom Le Roche Kickboxing, and the Pilates

Tree to offer students discounted fitness classes. Many students who participated in these classes were trying the activity for the first time. This, along with some great instructors, allowed each class to be a judgment free zone where students could learn a new activity together. The Union is excited to see this program grow over the next year.

Food Supports

Students who experience food insecurity show lower grades, higher rates of mental health concerns, and are at risk of poor physical health. With rising inflation rates and the higher cost of living, plus educational costs, students face huge financial constraints, ultimately affecting their health and wellness.

The Union understands the importance food security plays in students' lives. Food is a necessity, and the Union believes that no student should go without. To support students in their food security, in the past we have ran the TRUSU Food Bank, which included soliciting donations on campus and from the community. This year we continued to support our Chef's Packages program and established the TRUSU Emergency Food Security Program.

Emergency Food Security Program

In Fall 2022 the Union's Food Bank made a shift from a non-perishable food package model to a gift card model. This program is intended to support students who are in immediate need of food. Through this new gift card model students can obtain one \$50.00 gift card each semester and can use that money to go towards groceries or other needs. This model allows students to use the financial aid to access both food and non-perishable goods. Thus far the Union has supported 35 students in the Fall 2022 semester to help alleviate food insecurity.

Food Bank

The Union continued to implement the TRUSU Food Bank through a variety of donations, collections, and other strategies to ensure the demand by students in need of food was met for the winter and summer 2022 semesters. In Fall 2022 the Unions Food Bank made a shift from a non-perishable food package model to a gift card model. This change came about as demand for the food bank increased and the current inventory structure could not support the demand. The TRUSU Foodbank was limited to non-perishable items, most of which could not sustain a student's nutritional needs. This change means that the Union will no longer be accepting physical donations and will accept monetary donations only. We believe this change will help to better address food insecurity that students experience.

Chef's Packages

With the need for a food assistance program, the Union initiated the Chef's Package Project in 2022. Throughout

the year the Union distributed hundreds of customized food packages to students. The Union tabled outside Old Main in September, October, and November to distribute these Chef's Packages to the first two hundred (200) students per session. Each package contained multiple ingredients and a recipe to make healthy, delicious meals. These recipes included Baked Beans Curry, Spaghetti, and Chocolate Chip Pancakes.

The Union has assisted more than six hundred (600) students at TRU to lower their cost of food through the Chef's Packages program. The Services Committee is excited to continue the program and distribute another two hundred (200) customized packages per session in January, February, and March of 2023. The Union will continue to explore more Chef's Packages options in the upcoming years, working to reduce the impact of food insecurity on campus.

TRU Community Garden

Several times in the past coalitions of campus community members have come forward seeking to have a space allocated for a community garden on campus. Despite a number of well-planned out proposals being submitted TRU has been reluctant to allocate such a space without the commitment of a long-term administrator to support the project. In 2022, the Union approached the institution with a preliminary proposal to discuss a potential garden space on campus that would be managed by the Union and to support the Unions growing food security projects and received approval in principle for the development of such a space.

Given TRU's approval in principle, in January 2022 the Union began exploratory meetings with other community garden operators from across the province in order to



begin to understand how they operate their gardens, the programming they offer the community, and the required physical infrastructure for a successful garden. The Union met with eleven separate community gardens with a range of programming and physical set ups and was able by spring of 2022 to develop a model for the implementation of community garden pilot on campus pending the availability of space.

The Union will continue to work in 2023 to secure a community garden space on campus for the implementation of a community garden pilot project in spring 2024.

Housing Supports

The Union has worked hard to create avenues' and explore different programs that can help alleviate the affordability and access to housing challenges that students face in Kamloops. The Union believes that every student should have a safe space to call home during their studies here at TRU.

Housing Registry

In 2018 the Union recognized the need for a housing registry targeted toward TRU students. This registry has since become an important service that we offer students as they navigate secure housing options. Through this service we hope to connect landlords with potential renters, and students with their peers, to facilitate housing opportunities for our membership. The registry has since become an integral service to assist students in finding housing. Throughout 2022, the registry averaged 15-20 listings at any given time. The TRU Students' Union hopes to see continual growth in the housing registry and for it to continue to be a reliable resource for new and existing members to secure housing in Kamloops.

Intergenerational Housing Partnership

Our members have faced many barriers when trying to secure housing. The Union has been looking for solutions to combat the lack of affordability of housing in Kamloops. In the spring of 2022, the Union reached out to Canada HomeShare to implement a pilot program of intergenerational housing. Canada HomeShare is a non-profit organization that works to connect seniors with students to create more affordable housing options and support intergenerational relationships. This program would assist in the affordability of secure housing for both students and seniors.

Canada HomeShare's existing intergenerational housing program would be a great option for our members as it is creating affordable rental prices, it can be implemented quickly, and it is scalable over time. Canada Home Share would provide their expertise and can help to facilitate this program in the first year.

Unfortunately, Canada HomeShare as a program is currently transitioning to be under the umbrella of a new non-profit organization so they have paused taking on new community

pilot projects at this time. For this reason, the Union and Canada HomeShare have placed this initiative on pause. They are currently aiming to take on new projects in Winter 2023 and we hope we reconnect with them then. The Services Committee looks forward to continuing this project into 2023.

Locker Rentals

With TRU moving back to in-person classes in fall of 2021, many students returned to campus and spent most of their time between classes or studying on campus. In Winter 2022, the Union started the TRUSU Locker Rental services to help students store their books, supplies, gym bags, or tools between classes and workshops.

The Union offered 60 lockers for rent in the Union Building which were available for one or more semesters to all TRU students. In the first semester of the service being offered, more than 25 students from different programs signed up for renting a locker in the Students' Union Building. In Fall 2022, all 60 lockers in the Students' Union Building were rented out to students. Many signed up to be on a waitlist in case any lockers become available. The Union will re-evaluate in the future whether there is a need to build more lockers to be made available for students to be rented.

Common Grounds

Common Grounds remains one of the most successful services offered by the Union. It is the only student-owned and operated food service outlet on campus and continues to lead the campus industry in promoting ethical and sustainable business practices that meet the Union's principles. Since resuming operations after being shut down for more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Common Grounds has been able to successfully sustain its break-even operating model.

In 2022, Common Grounds averaged per day sales of approximately \$950.00 on weekdays and \$200.00 on weekends. Even with provincial restrictions and regular supply issues, Common Grounds had a strong financial year. While many restaurants closed their doors during the Winter 2022 semester due to a shortage of labour and high cost of operation, Common Grounds was open for longer hours to serve students and did not lay off any staff members. It continued to operate on extended hours of operation that were implemented in Fall 2021. The coffee shop remained open 7 days a week – Monday to Friday from 8:00 am – 9:00 pm and 10:00 am – 9:00 pm on weekends. The coffee shop employed nine (9) TRU students, which helped in faster order fulfilment, shorter wait time for customers, and enabled students to reach their classes on time.

Common Grounds continued to conduct business with local vendors like Twin Rivers Cuisine, Blackwell Dairy Farm, and Save-on-Foods Kamloops to support the local economy. These local vendors helped offered a better variety of food through

a rotational menu which included baked goods, sandwiches, wraps, salads, and soups. The menu at Common Grounds also included gluten-free and vegan food options to better serve customers with dietary restrictions.

Pop-ups and Specialty Drinks

For many years, the Union has advocated for more choices related to food options on campus. The Union partnered with a local food services provider, Daana Paani, to offer a specialty pop-up in the Students' Union Building. On November 7, 2022, TRUSU gave away 250 samosas to students, staff, and faculty members at TRU. These samosas were available on a pre-order basis only, which helped the local vendor to fulfill the orders at a reasonable lead time and resulted in convenient pick-up process for customers.

Common Grounds also offered specialty drinks like the Eggnog Latte throughout the festive Christmas season in 2022. These specialty food pop-ups and drinks received a great response from TRU students and community members. The Union will continue to explore options to partner with new local vendors to increase the variety of food options on campus, particularly in the Students' Union Building.

Common Grounds continues to support the students and the community while being a preferred service outlet on campus.

UPASS

The UPASS program has provided thousands of students in Kamloops with unlimited access to the Kamloops transit system for many years. This service works to both make transportation affordable and reduce our collective impact on the environment by encouraging members to access public transit. For students who want to focus on their physical wellness, the UPASS has also helped members to save hundreds of dollars each year, with a 50% discount to a monthly membership at the Tournament Capital Centre (TCC) and free access to the Canada Games Aquatic Centre.

In 2022, the Union had a total of 18,909 students who were eligible to activate their UPASS. The program remains one of the most important services provided through the Union, with only 316 students opting out of the UPASS program in the entire year. While classes were still being operated in a hybrid model at the beginning of the year, 59% students activated their UPASS in winter 2022 and 68% activated it summer 2022. These numbers gradually increased to 72% in fall 2022. With 473 students opting in to the UPASS, the Union had an approximate total of 12,954 students with an active UPASS in 2022.

UPASS Swipe Migration

With the growth in technology and the increase in the use of mobile applications amongst users, BC Transit and City of Kamloops implemented a project to phase out the card

technology for bus fare and migrate to mobile application fare technology. This transformational project will introduce payment methods that will improve the user transit experience.

In Summer 2022, BC transit confirmed that it will implement the innovative UMO platform across the province, which will allow users to be able to pay their fare with a new mobile app, credit card, debit card, new reloadable smart card, and mobile wallet, providing them with the ability to pick the best fare product for your lifestyle and travel habits. The Union has been working with BC Transit to ensure that the transition from the UPASS swipe card to the UMO application will be seamless for new and returning members. The Union worked with BC Transit, TRU, and the City of Kamloops to develop and test a new file and data management system for the activation and distribution of UPASS application data to students through the UMO Platform.

The Union will develop a communication strategy to advise members of the transition that is coming, share how the change will impact them, and ensure that students understand the new process to activate and access their UPASS. As per the latest update from BC Transit, the transition is planned to be implemented in Kamloops by Fall 2023.





Entertainment Committee

Campus life activities and events at TRU are an important part of the university experience because these events provide opportunities for students to connect with each other and with the TRU community. These events serve students by helping them discover new interests, build lasting relationships, and learn new skills.

After more than two years into the Pandemic, at the start of the year 2022, the Union gradually returned to a new normal. With the ever-changing event operating conditions at the beginning of 2022, the Union cancelled its annual Common Voices Lecture in February 2022 for the second time in the last two years. In 2022, the Union's entertainment committee hosted the Back to School BBQ, Clubs Day, Movie Nights, Winter Fest, and Workshops.

Back to School BBQ

The Back to School BBQ is the biggest and the most anticipated event on the TRU campus. The Back to School BBQ serves to create a sense of belonging and welcome students to the TRU Community. The Union has developed and scaled this event up over the last 15 years. With the Back to School BBQ being cancelled for the previous two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Union put significant effort and resources into ensuring that the Back to School BBQ continues to be a cornerstone event that creates a sense of belonging at the start of academic year at TRU.

On September 9th, 2022, the Union, in partnership with TRU, hosted its 33rd Annual Back-to-School BBQ. The event took place in the Campus Commons and had more than 120 vendors in attendance. The 2022 Back-to-School BBQ had a diverse range of entertainment opportunities and activities to participate in, including over 120 interactive tables, a main stage including 5 musical acts, and a free hot dog or hamburger lunch provided by TRU. The event was co-emceed by the Vice President Internal and a local radio personality.

The Back-to-School BBQ had a massive turnout of over 6,000 students, providing them with the ability to network, make connections, and get support for their academic journey. Music and Entertainment from the stage was well-received from members, and the Entertainment Committee will continue to explore ways to enhance and scale the event for years to come.

The Back-to-School BBQ remains the largest and the most anticipated event of the year, and the Union looks forward to hosting another successful Back-to-School BBQ in 2023.

Clubs Day

Clubs Day is an annual event hosted by the Entertainment Committee to create and cultivate opportunities for members to connect with peers surrounding shared interests or perspectives. With limited opportunities over the last two years to connect and take part in campus life related activities, the Union expected that students would seek increased opportunities to connect and join campus clubs.

On September 15, 2022, the Entertainment Committee hosted its annual Clubs Day on the basketball court outside of Old Main. Over 600 students and more than 50 groups participated in the event. The Union continues to attract interests from campus clubs and community organizations to partake in Clubs Day. Clubs Day played an important role in providing members with an introduction to student groups on campus, and non-profit organizations, and an opportunity to get involved through their interests at the beginning of the academic year.

At the event, the Union set up a small stage, played music, hosted an inflatable station, and distributed free ice cream. The ice cream station was popular with the student body. The Union also set up tables for its Services Committee, Campaigns Committee, Equity Committee, and University Affairs committee to promote their respective upcoming activities.



Members, student clubs and community groups expressed positive feedback about the event as it offered them the opportunity to connect with members.

Outdoor Movie Night and Food Truck Festival

The Outdoor Movie Night is an annual event hosted to engage members, provide an opportunity to connect with their peers, to have local food truck vendors on campus, and to promote the Union.

On September 22, 2022, the Entertainment Committee hosted the event in Campus Commons outside the Campus Activity Centre. The festivities commenced with a Food Truck Festival, arcade games, and inflatable games. These activities were followed by a screening of *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, as selected by a public vote of members of the Union. The screening involved a 50-foot blow-up screen with stadium surround sound. Through the preview, the Union promoted various aspects of the Union's advocacy, services, and entertainment.

The event continues to have more students in attendance yearly. However, this year, members broke attendance records with over 1,200 attendees showing up to the screening. The Entertainment Committee received positive feedback from attendees and will proceed to investigate additional entertainment opportunities for this event in future.

Paramount Theatre Movie Nights

Members of the Union look to the Union to provide them with opportunities to attend events with their friends and other students. In response to this need, The Union has partnered with the Kamloops Film Society to offer regular theme-based movie nights for students. The goal of these movie nights is to offer fun, safe, and accessible events to students to engage with its members.

Bollywood Movie Night

On January 29, 2022, the Union hosted a Bollywood movie night featuring games, prizes, and the movie *3 Idiots*. The event was attended by just over 120 students with more than 200 registrations.

Reel Rock 16 Screening

Founded in 2005, every year Reel Rock brings a new selection of the short best climbing films on tour worldwide, sharing the biggest stories, and celebrating the greatest adventures in the sport of climbing.

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, the Union hosted the only Kamloops screening of Reel Rock 16. Along with the screening, the Union gave away swag and door prizes. With a capacity of



250 attendees, more than 175 people attended the TRUSU Reel Rock 16.

Based on the experience of hosting two themed movie night in early part of the year, the Entertainment Committee of the Union is of the opinion that activity or adventure themed movie nights have a better reception amongst the membership and a higher rate of success.

Ski Themed Movie Night

With the success of the TRUSU Reel Rock 16, the Union partnered with Freestyle BC and the Sun Peaks Free Style Club to host the Kamloops Premiere of *Anywhere from Here*. *Anywhere from Here* was one of the most awaited ski movies of 2022 and is produced by Matchstick Productions.

On November 17, 2022, the Entertainment Committee hosted the event at the Paramount Theatre. Over 450 people attended, and the event included opportunities for socialization, a concession, and beer sales. Attendees had a chance to win several door prizes including a grand prize of lift tickets and free stay at Sun Peaks Resort.

Additionally, proceeds from this event created a bursary of more than \$2,800 for a student in the TRU Adventure studies program.

Upon the success of the Ski Movie Night, the Entertainment Committee will continue scale and improve theme-based movie nights at the Paramount Theatre.

Winter Fest

In 2019/20 the Union hosted Holiday Fest for the first time to connect students, community, and faculty together to celebrate winter and the holiday season before the end of Fall Semester. In 2022, the Union rebranded Holiday Fest to Winter Fest.

After a hiatus of two years, on November 23, 2022, the Union hosted Winter Fest in the Campus Commons. Over 700 students were present throughout the event. The event included festive holiday music, marshmallow roasting over large fire pits, prizes, food trucks, hockey shootouts and giveaways, and free hot chocolate and cookies. The event concluded with the official tree lighting ceremony of the large ponderosa pine tree outside the Students' Union Building. The tree also featured more than 40 large basketball-size ornaments decorated by various faculties, schools, departments, and Clubs at TRU. Decorating these ornaments provided participants with a fun and unique community-building activity for 40 well-established campus groups.

The Union is encouraged by the feedback from its members and the TRU community and looks forward to building on this event to make it a marquee event towards the end of the Fall semester and starting a new holiday tradition on TRU Campus.

Extended Learning Series Workshops

With the cancellation of large in-person events for most of the 2021 year, the Union piloted hosting niche workshop style events to provide students with specific knowledge and/or skills. The Union continued to host two workshops in the Winter 2022 semester.

Food Safe Level 1 Certification Workshop

The Union hosted a day long Food Safe Level 1 Certification on Saturday, March 19, 2022. This day-long workshop covered important food safety and worker safety information. The workshop ended with students writing a knowledge test required for the certification. Of the 11 students who attended the workshop, 10 students completed the requirements to get their Food Safe Level 1 certification.

Introduction to Gardening Workshop

The Union hosted an Introduction to Gardening workshop on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at the Butler Urban Farms. Students with limited or no experience interested in starting their own garden in a small space or a yard. Along with the training, the Workshop provided students with everything they needed to start and run their garden in the summer. The workshop was attended by 10 students.

As we look back on a successful year for campus life activities after a difficult two years, the Union is excited to see campus life activities returning to normal. We look forward to building on the success of this year as we continue to host events and activities in the upcoming year that helps create a vibrant, inclusive, and engaging community at TRU.



