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25

Report to the COMMUNITY



THIS REPORT

This report aims to inform students and the campus community on the progress and changes completed by the SU over the 2024 - 2025 academic year.

Want more information? You can check out our website or reach out to one of our student executives – they're always happy to speak with students! You can find their contact information on our website.

www.su.ucalgary.ca





STRATEGIC & ANNUAL OPERATING PLANS

The Students' Union is guided by a strategic plan which is reviewed and renewed every four years. This plan illustrates the Vision, Mission, and Values of the SU and guides the allocation of resources towards student priorities. The 82nd executives drafted, and the Students' Legislative Council (the SU's elected highest governing body) approved the strategic plan for the SU for 2025 - 2029.

Each year, the SLC also approves an annual operating plan which is developed by the executives to direct their work for their term. The 82nd executive created their plan for 2024 - 2025 with goals divided into three key priorities: *strengthen the organization, engage with students, and prioritize advocacy.*

STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION

The SU continues to be a model for student associations across the country in terms of governance policy and practice (including transparency and accountability to students), management of our spaces on campus, staffing, and financial sustainability.



Legislative CHANGES

The Students' Legislative Council (SLC) has made some important changes to the Union Bylaw that included updates to its composition, executive offices, and committee administration.

- 1.** Undergraduate students can now run for executive positions if they've completed one 3-unit course in any two academic periods within the past calendar year, accommodating those who took time off for personal/medical reasons.
- 2.** A new living document outlines the SU's priorities and actions sought from stakeholders, with regular updates to reflect emerging issues and data.
- 3.** SLC approved a new Strategic Plan to guide the Students' Union for the next four years (2025–2029, covering the 83rd to 86th SLC cohorts).
- 4.** The Refugee Student Program (RSP) Committee was dissolved, with the program now under SU Volunteer Services for better student support, engagement, and accountability.



GENERAL

2025 GENERAL ELECTION

The 83rd SLC was elected in the SU General Election in March 2025. There were 40 candidates for 28 positions with one position left vacant. The 83rd SLC will be the first in SU history where all executive positions are held by women.

VOTE

TURN OUT V



ELECTION

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WAS

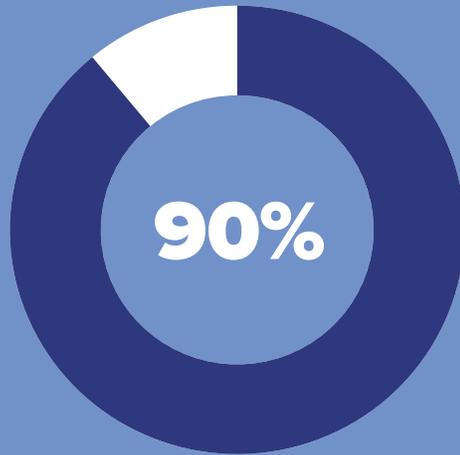
3,341
STUDENTS



STUDENTS' UNION
UNIVERSITY OF

Finance

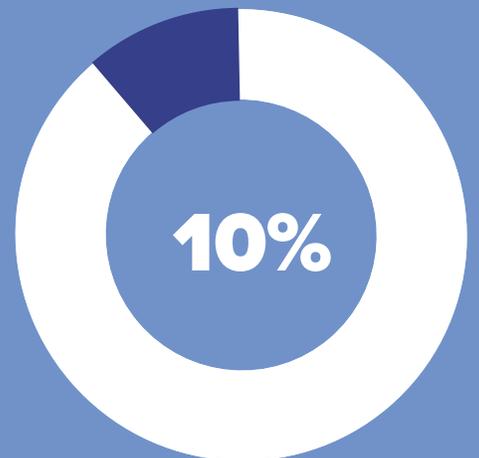
REVENUE SOURCES



+90%
of our revenue comes
from SU business

Each year, the SLC approves an annual operating budget of nearly \$22 million. No extra budgetary expenditures were proposed or approved during the 2024-2025 year.

UCalgary students continue to enjoy some of the lowest student fees in the country while at the same time they benefit from the large number of businesses, programs, advocacy and services offered by their SU. This is possible through the strong financial stewardship of student money by the SU.



+10%
of our revenue comes
from Student Fees



**OUR STUDENTS
PAY THE LOWEST
SU FEES IN THE
COUNTRY**



**UCALGARY
STUDENTS HAVE
NOT HAD AN
INCREASE IN THE
SU OPERATING
FEE SINCE 1995**

SUBBUSINESSES

REVENUE SOURCES

\$2,929,016

MacEwan Conference & Event Centre

\$2,678,144

MacEwan Student Centre Lease Revenue

\$1,140,423

MacHall/Ballroom Concerts

\$929,046

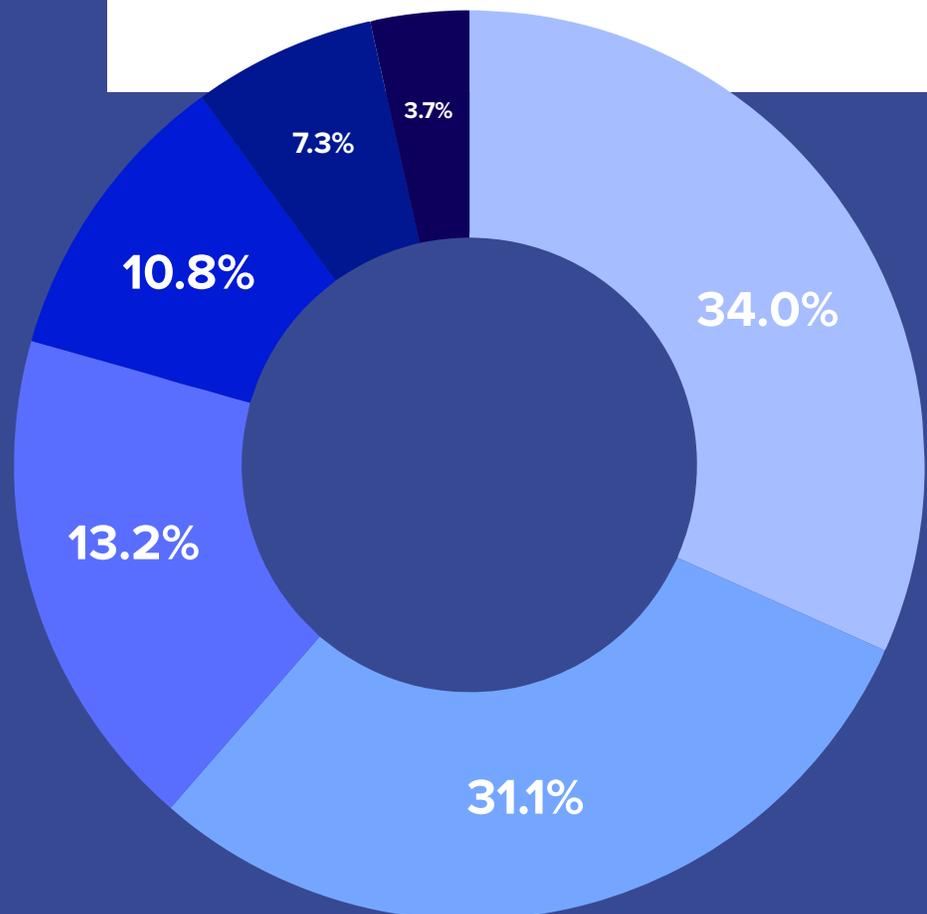
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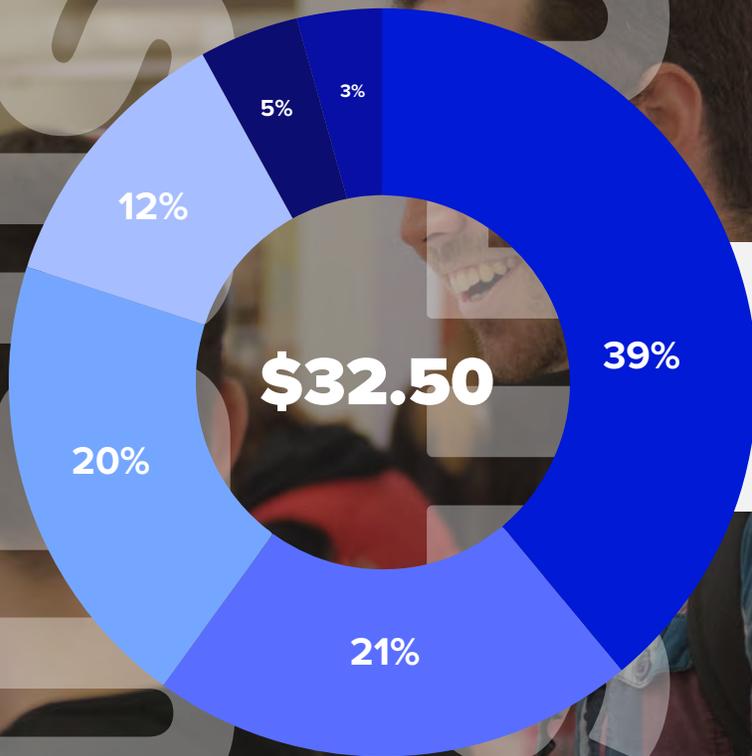
\$625,437

The Den & Black Lounge

\$320,787

Bound & Copied





SU STUDENT FEE BREAK DOWN

\$12.87

Business Operations

This money is invested into our businesses which turn around and bring in revenue used to fund the vast majority of our operations.

\$6.41

Building Maintenance

As building managers we make sure that Mac Hall is looking its best and working for students.

\$1.62

Marketing and Communications

Marketing and Communications spreads the word about what the SU is doing, promotes programs, advocacy and services for students and works to strengthen the campus community.

\$6.66

Administration and Accounting

This makes sure we have a financial team that keeps our finances balanced and our funds accounted for.

\$3.96

Programs & Services

This includes funding for student Clubs, the Q Centre, SU Campus Food Bank and a variety of on-campus events.

\$0.98

Student Government & Non-Partisan Advocacy

Student government keeps us accountable to students through elections, governance, policies and procedures. Our non-partisan advocacy ensures that students are at the table for decisions that impact them.

Funding for Campus Impro

The SU approved funding allocations for 21 projects, totaling \$2,019,081, through the Quality Money Program to directly benefit students. Key investments include:

- 1.** Modernizing the Bouldering Facility by introducing portable climbing systems in unused areas of the Racquet Centre and necessary safety matting, providing accessibility to climbers of all skill levels and reducing the traffic in the basement bouldering wall and accommodating an increased demand for climbing facilities.
- 2.** Installing additional lockers in the basement of Craigie Hall E Block to accommodate increasing admissions to the School of Creative and Performing Arts, allowing students who play large instruments such as tubas, guitars and French horns to store their instruments securely.
- 3.** Introducing a series of events to improve opportunities for students to learn about and develop projects for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals through summits, storytelling events, and workshops.
- 4.** Refurbishing an unused space at Foothills Campus to provide a calming, accessible space for neurodivergent students. The space will feature soothing design elements and stress management tools for use by all students in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program.
- 5.** Funding a new Student Leaders for Sustainability Scholarship to recognize and encourage student leadership and sustainability on campus, especially projects that advocate for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- 6.** Transforming EDC 387Z into an accessible, comfortable study environment to promote collaboration and respond to increased demand for available student spaces in the Education buildings.
- 7.** Extending the funding for the Tiya Dagumisasy Program (formerly known as ASSERT), offered by the Writing Symbols Lodge, through to May 31, 2029, to address the systemic barriers faced by Indigenous students in areas of cultural, personal and academic success.
- 8.** Extending the funding for the African Studies (AFST) minor program through to August 1, 2028, to support the continuous growth and success of the program, to enrich AFST social activities, to continue to fund the African Studies Field School in Ghana, and to collaborate with African and Black-focused student clubs and organizations.

vement

- 9.** Addressing the need for ongoing access to education related to sexual and gender-based violence, facilitated by The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support Office, by allocating funds to create awareness, create safe spaces, empower community members, and promote education.
- 10.** Upgrading and improving the software used by the Student Financial Support team to review and administer awards to students to meet the increased number of annual applications and make the process to apply for funding easier for students.
- 11.** Renovating the study space on the tenth floor of the Social Sciences building to provide a comfortable, modern, and accessible space for students to work and socialize, and adding adaptive and sensory accommodations for neurodivergent and physically disabled students.
- 12.** Expanding the scope of the Student Medical Response Team by funding the recruitment of additional team members, purchasing equipment, providing training, certification and re-certification, and running ongoing learning opportunities through regular scenario-based learning and training sessions, which will also be open to the general student population.
- 13.** Installing nap pods in the Faculty of Arts for students to access a comfortable, safe space to rest while on campus, allowing students to improve energy levels, focus, and physical wellness.
- 14.** Updating the Multi-Faith space on Foothills campus by purchasing items necessary for prayer and revitalizing the facility, which will promote community and connection and provide a private, comfortable space for students in the Cumming School of Medicine to observe their religious obligations.
- 15.** Expanding the work of the UCalgary Recovery Community's Peer Recovery Navigator (PRN) project by hiring students with specialized, lived experience with addiction and addiction recovery to act as peer supports, and further developing and expanding the UCRC's programming to better support to campus community members looking to access on-campus recovery resources.
- 16.** Introducing a holistic, evidence-based approach to harm reduction and recovery that utilizes accessible physical movement as a method to support campus community members looking for recovery resources.

Funding for Campus Impro

- 17.** Facilitating a more accepting and welcoming environment on campus through the implementation of learning opportunities for conflict resolution and peaceful discussion, an Undergraduate Pluralism Scholarship, and a student co-op position.
- 18.** Creating outdoor learning spaces at the Barrier Lake Field Station for students and staff to learn, socialize, study and share meals, as well as providing an outdoor space for Indigenous students and staff to gather and practice traditional knowledge.
- 19.** Renovating the audio/video editing suites in the Taylor Family Digital Library to accommodate increased demand for these spaces and to allow for group collaboration and larger projects.
- 20.** Providing nasal naloxone kits in UCalgary Residence buildings and naloxone administration and harm reduction training to students and On-Call Community Ambassadors to crucially improve response times and outcomes in the case of an over-intoxication incidence in Residence.
- 21.** Updating the Google Street View 360-degree imagery on the UCalgary campus to improve accessibility and wayfinding for students, staff, community members and visitors.



A Quality Money Project
brought to you by your
Students' Union.





ENGAGING Students





The SU devotes significant resources each year to ensuring that undergraduate students have the best possible experience on campus. We offer a wide range of services, programs, and scholarships, host events, provide student leadership development opportunities, and support student initiatives.

For the full list of everything we do for students, visit our website.

WELCOME WEEK

September marked the return of fall orientation activities, including the Dinos' Kickoff Tailgate party at McMahon Stadium, and a two-day Welcome Fair event in Mac Hall. Welcome Fair filled the North and South courtyards with a variety of sponsors and our own tables highlighting SU services, opportunities and businesses.

CLUBS

The SU supports student-led activities on campus through our clubs system. Clubs that register with the SU receive complimentary access to space, funding, and a range of other supports throughout the year. For more information on the services, we offer and to view a full list of recognized student clubs, please visit our website. This year, the SU recognized and supported 381 active clubs!

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

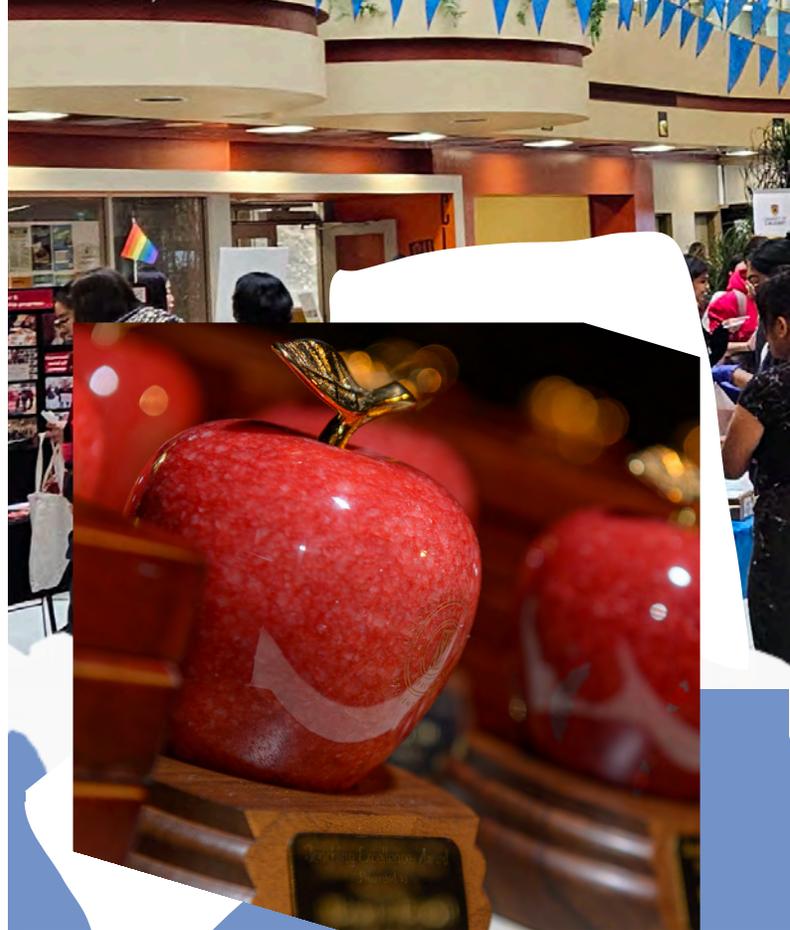
Since 1984, the SU has celebrated outstanding teaching at the University of Calgary through the Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA), the only campus-wide teaching awards where students nominate and select the recipients!

This year, 950 students submitted nominations (521 in the Fall and 429 in the Winter), and the SU recognized 41 instructors and teaching assistants for their exceptional commitment to student success.

STRESSLESS WEEK

At the end of every winter term, the SU organizes Stress Less Week to help students combat exam pressure. This year we offered several activities including pet therapy sessions, puzzle making stations, bookmark crafting and bracelet making workshops.

The week saw over 250 student attendees participating across all activities.



SEX WEEK

In February, the SU partnered with campus groups to host Sex and Gender Wellness Week, featuring 15 events—including four Q Centre-led workshops and discussions. The week culminated in a Sex Week Carnival, where students learned about sexual health resources while enjoying cotton candy. Over 370 attendees joined the events, with hundreds more at the Carnival, fostering open dialogue about wellbeing.

Q CENTRE

The SU's Q Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity strives to create a safe, comfortable, and open space for 2SLGBTQ2SIA+ students. The Q Centre coordinators and volunteers raise awareness about community issues by promoting diversity and organizing educational activities and events. They also offer peer support, direct clients to community resources, and award the Q Centre Pride Scholarship to undergraduate students who have made significant contributions to the 2SLGBTQ2SIA+ community on campus.



WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS

Wellness Wednesdays deliver wellbeing events for students. This year's highlights included our October Food Drive, which collected donations and raised money for the Campus Food Bank. January's Volunteer Fair connected 250 students with 14 community organizations, while April's "Living Room" event drew 534 attendees—with 300 snack packs distributed in just one hour.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

This annual event celebrates and showcases undergraduate research across all faculties. Students present their projects in a competitive academic forum, with winners selected by a panel of 26 professors and TAs. This year, we received 109 submissions, shortlisted 45 projects, and ultimately recognized 32 winners with awards. The event culminated in a poster symposium attended by 318 students and faculty, highlighting the incredible research being conducted by undergraduates.

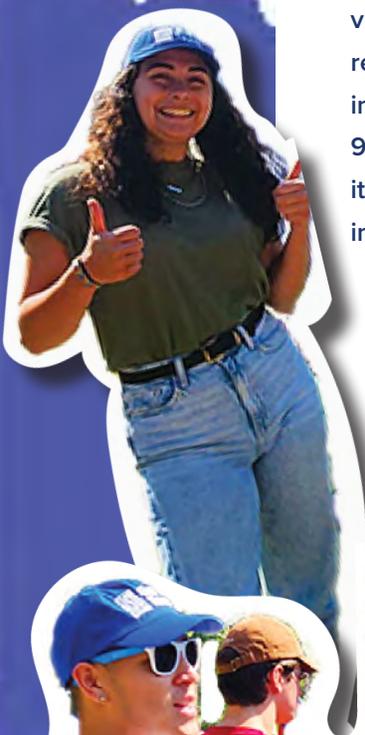
REFUGEE STUDENT PROGRAM

In partnership with World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and the University of Calgary, the SU sponsors refugee students to pursue their education here. The program provides comprehensive financial and settlement support to help students transition successfully. This year, we welcomed two new students - Khadijo from Somalia (Computer Science) and JooH from South Sudan (Engineering), both previously living in Kenyan refugee camps. We are now preparing to welcome the Fall 2025 cohort for this program.



VOLUNTEER

Since 1993, the SU's Volunteer Services has connected students with meaningful opportunities both on and off campus while critical social programs – including the Campus Food Bank, Q Centre, and Volunteer Tax Program – delivered vital services to our campus community. Their remarkable 8,900 service hours supported initiatives like filing 1,163 tax returns, distributing 903 food hampers, and returning over 1,000 lost items to owners, demonstrating our students' incredible commitment to helping others.



SU Camp
Food Bank

R Services



CAMPUS FOOD BANK

The SU's Campus Food Bank provides emergency food hampers and advocates for student food security, offering both immediate support and long-term resources. Staffed by three part-time coordinators and 43 volunteers, the CFB distributed 903 regular hampers, plus 123 seasonal hampers (Ramadan and Holiday) during the 2024-2025 year, feeding over 1,400 individuals.

Through initiatives like Pack the Pantry and community partnerships, the program collected over 3,000 lbs of food donations to sustain this vital service. This winter, we renewed our partnership with UCalgary Parking and Transportation for the Fines for Food campaign, transforming parking violations into meals for students. The February initiative redirected 50% of paid fines to the Campus Food Bank, raising over \$8,000—part of the CFB's record \$79,000 in annual donations.

VOLUNTEER TAX PROGRAM

The SU Volunteer Tax Program (VTP) provides free tax filing services by professional student volunteers who are trained to Canada Revenue Agency standards. The program is staffed by two part-time coordinators and 95 volunteers, who completed 1,163 returns this year. All available spots were filled early this season, and coordinators continued to refer additional inquiries to outside services.

Prioritize ADVOCACY

Whether we're engaging with the University or advocating for student interests to all tiers of government, we work tirelessly to improve things on campus and beyond. Student leaders had their work cut out for them last year, as the ongoing cost of living crisis elevated Alberta's already high rates of food insecurity and youth unemployment—not to mention tuition. Despite these challenges, we secured important achievements for students and took significant steps towards lasting change.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

The 82nd SLC kicked off its term by convincing the University Appeals Office to retain its second layer of appeals in June. Without this layer, students challenging an appeal on the grounds of procedural unfairness would be forced to rely on the civil courts, which could be a long and expensive process. We continue to engage with the Appeals Office to ensure students receive every chance to be fairly heard.

Later, we collaborated with the Faculty of Arts to create the Student Engagement Framework for Program Proposals. This work, completed in March 2025, began after the Faculty abruptly announced in late 2024 that some programs would stop enrolling new students in order to undergo curriculum updates.

Students told us this left them feeling blindsided and unsure of what it meant for their own academic futures. To ensure this doesn't happen again, the Framework requires (among other things) that the Faculty will inform students of program changes before they occur, provide rationale in plain language, and hold multiple consultation sessions with impacted students.

The elected officials of the SU engaged with university leadership during the tuition and fee consultation process, working collaboratively to share their concerns and student feedback on the proposed increases. The initial proposal included 2% domestic tuition hikes and 6% international increases, but student advocacy secured critical concessions.

TUITION AND FEES

You spoke, we listened: 90% of students told us tuition and fees should be the SU's top advocacy priority in our 2024 survey, and this inspired us to conduct some of our most successful work with the University's Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee yet. In our role as members of this committee, we brought your feedback directly to University administration. Externally, we met with important stakeholders at the Ministry of Advanced Education, including the Minister. Below are the highlights of our wins for students:

- For the second year in a row, the SU successfully convinced the University to reduce its proposed increase to international tuition: this time from 6% to 4%. This move will save international students thousands of dollars.
- The SU also found common ground with the University as we agreed that compelling some students to pay for certain software subscriptions would be another unnecessary expense.
- When the University suggested seeking provincial approval for an Exceptional Tuition Increase (ETI) in the Faculty of Science—which would allow tuition to increase beyond the 2% cap—the SU and other students' associations sounded the alarm. The province not only announced that it would not grant any ETIs for the 2024-25 academic year, but it won't be granting any for 2025-26 either.

- After hearing that students wanted more clarity from the University's Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee reports on where their money goes, the SU created a new template to address these gaps, in consultation with the Graduate Students' Association. The University accepted the template and even expanded it, meaning future reports will contain previously unseen levels of detail on how your fees are spent. One example is that the reports will include initial budgets for the first time, allowing students to compare projected and final expenditures.



OPEN LETTER CAMPAIGN

In February 2025, we teamed up with 24 other Albertan students' associations to send an open letter to the province: Government of Alberta, You Can't Keep Cutting Class. Representing thousands of students, we urged a reversal of cuts to post-secondary funding that began in 2019. This letter received media attention across Alberta from Lethbridge to Red Deer, creating enough of a stir that the Minister of Advanced Education was even asked to respond. Your SU President was also invited to speak about the letter on Global News Morning, accompanied by his counterpart from SAIT's Students' Association.

MENTAL HEALTH

The SU submitted recommendations to the province ahead of Budget 2025, outlining financial measures that students need. Created in partnership with the Graduate Students' Association and the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, our recommendations included investing in mental health support, especially through renewing the Post-Secondary Student Mental Health Grant. The Minister of Advanced Education responded directly to our recommendations in a January statement for The Gauntlet, and when Budget 2025 was finalized, we were thankful to see that the Ministry invested \$8.7 million to support student mental health.

STUDENT JOBS

Given that Albertan unemployment is higher than the national average, the SU has been calling for the return of the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) since 2019. This was a wage subsidy scheme that connected students to jobs between May and August. Throughout the year, the 82nd SLC successfully secured endorsements for our campaign from industry leaders, including the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. This work will continue into the 83rd SLC.

TAKING ON EDMONTON

November was busy for your SU student leaders, as they made their way to Edmonton to highlight issues that matter to students. Post-secondary funding, unemployment and student housing were just some of the topics discussed with not just the Minister and Critic of Advanced Education, but a host of MLAs from across Alberta.



GET OUT THE VOTE

In April, we worked to boost the student vote by partnering with New Majority, a non-partisan organization focused on youth voter turnout. We invited New Majority to visit Mac Hall and help prepare students for election day, providing temporary job opportunities for students on our campus in the process. We also worked with Elections Canada, the official administrator of federal elections, to keep students informed on how to cast their ballot.

Most importantly of all, we attended an advance polling station in Hunter Student Commons to hand out free gelato to students who voted. Supported by Calgary's Amato Gelato Café, we bestowed some temporary new names on popular flavours by Mario's Gelati. (Our best-sellers that day were Ministerial Mango and Straw-Ballot Lemon.) We brought the treats, but you made sure the day was a success; Elections Canada reported that the highest voter turnout on our campus coincided with our event.

COMMUNICATIONS

The 82nd SLC oversaw the introduction of an Advocacy section on the SU's website, where you can read up on our campaigns—and our progress, too. While you wait for the next Report to the Community, we'll keep you posted on how we advocate for you.

Visit su.ucalgary.ca/advocacy for updates



BACK ROW (Left to Right)

Siena Yee (Werklund), Lorraine Ndovi (Social Work), Uday Singh Sandhu (Haskayne),
Ali Beg (Medicine), Tavish Comrie (Engineering), Gabriela Dziegielewska (Science),
Julia Law (Architecture, Planning, and Landscape)

MIDDLE ROW (Left to Right)

Ben Shi (Science), Hannah Kim (Medicine), Aitazaz Shah (Arts), Simchah Atanda (Arts),
Taylor Strelow (Nursing), Debojeet Dam (Engineering)

FRONT ROW (Left to Right)

Elbert Tom (Kinesiology), Emmanuel Trinidad (Science), Naomie Bakana (VP Internal),
Ernia Rezaei-Afsah (President), Jessie Dinh (VP Academic), Danielle Barry (Veterinary
Medicine), Lujaina Eldelebs hany (Engineering)

NOT SHOWN IN PHOTO

Mateusz Salmassi (VP External), Martin Al-Najar (Arts), Edom Girma (Arts),
Farhan Chisty (Haskayne), Safaa Al-Khaz'Aly (Law)



STUDENTS' LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL





www.su.ucalgary.ca

