

Do what's right, not what's easy. Inspire change for the world.
Act with unbridled compassion. Always keep moving. Plan for tomorrow.

2020/2021 Executive Goals

The University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) is a student-directed non-profit organization that represents the 32,000 undergraduate students at the University of Alberta. Each year, the Executive team sets the goals that direct the operations of this \$14 million organization.

The COVID-19 environment has challenged the student body on all fronts. In these uncertain and unprecedented times of change, the UASU strives to be a predictable and dependable institution, but one that is flexible to the ever-changing world. The UASU will work to ensure that student leadership reflects the diversity and needs of the student body, and that our values keep students at the core of what we do.

This document outlines our goals for 2020/21 as the UASU Executive team.

1. Empower Students to Lead

- Continue to make governance accessible
- Inform, expand, and support students' rights
- Stand up for residents' rights

2. Secure a Strong Future for Students

- Enhance UASU's environmental and financial responsibility
- Advocate for a future that puts students at the forefront of university and government decisions
- Create a new culture to end campus sexual violence

3. Break Down Barriers

- Affordable and stable student financial support
- Ensuring accessibility for everyone

4. Ensure A High-Quality University Experience

- Facilitating 21st century educational practices and materials
- Building a University of Alberta that centres around student needs
- Indigenize campus and fight against the historical suppression of traditional learning and knowledge

5. Build a Better Campus Community

- Ensure that student health and wellness are prioritized
- Support the diversity of students on campus
- Strengthen the campus community

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1. Empower Students to Lead

During substantial changes at the University of Alberta, it is crucial that administrators and the government hear students' voices. Governance must be accessible to ensure it is representative of the student population. To best represent the student heartbeat, we must strengthen the student movement.

Continue to make governance accessible

- Ensure students consistently fill seats on GFC by building awareness and changing students' perceptions of governance roles
- Engage students in all levels of university and student governance by empowering student advocates
- Create an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force to identify structural barriers preventing students from participating fully in governance, and take steps to reduce them

Inform, expand, and support students' rights

- Leverage the Charter of Students Rights to initiate a comprehensive review of university policy with an eye to procedural fairness and natural justice
- Create a student advocate position to support students in navigating complex university structures

Stand up for residents' rights

- Push for the residence experience to become affordable and accessible
- Advocate for affordable and quality meal plans through student feedback
- Work with the Council of Residence Associations (CoRA) to create an advocacy plan

2. Secure a Strong Future for Students

Our operations and advocacy need to prioritize long-term student issues. The supports and rights which students today enjoy were passed on from previous generations, and we have a responsibility to leave them better than we found them for the students of tomorrow.

Enhance UASU's environmental and financial responsibility

- Reduce and divert waste in SUB and set the groundwork for our goal of carbon neutrality by 2050
- Empower students to create a more sustainable campus
- Diversify UASU revenue through strategic business initiatives and fundraising

Advocate for a future that puts students at the forefront of university and government decisions

- Advocate for a fair, transparent, and predictable model for institutional funding
- Address the infrastructure debt left to students in our advocacy

Create a new culture to end campus sexual violence

- Hold the provincial government accountable for implementing the recommendations from the CAUS *White Paper on Campus Sexual Violence*
- Update the University's experiential learning and campus sexual violence policy suites to add robust protections for students
- Advocate that the University hire a dedicated Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator
- Educate the campus community on consent, including intimate partner violence

3. Break Down Barriers

Universities are for everyone, and all students deserve to access post-secondary education without barriers to accessibility or affordability. Too many obstacles still prevent students from engaging equitably in campus life and academics. Students deserve supports that help overcome those obstacles.

Affordable and stable student financial support

- Continue advocacy for needs-based, up-front provincial grants
- Support more needs-based scholarships and bursaries from the University
- Call on the provincial government to lower tuition increases
- Advocate for sustained student employment funding
- Push for fair and flexible student loan repayment terms

Ensuring accessibility for everyone

- Lobby the government and the University for better supports for students who parent, such as improved child care
- Address period poverty by acquiring sustainable funding for free menstrual products
- Advocate for a ban on weekend midterms
- Add information on academic accommodations to orientation

4. Ensure A High-Quality University Experience

Students come to the University of Alberta expecting a world-class institution with cutting-edge education. The quality of the experience encompasses academic, vocational, and student life experiences. In the face of unprecedented institutional threats, students still deserve a high-quality experience built for the 21st century.

Facilitating 21st century educational practices and materials

- Advocate for the expansion of work integrated learning (WIL) and experiential learning opportunities.
- Support the implementation of Open Educational Resources (OERs) both at a provincial government and institutional level
- Push for more user-friendly online resources for an improved student experience
- Advocate for student-friendly pedagogy for an online environment
- Call for a total cap on the cost of academic materials

Building a University of Alberta that centres around student needs

- Work to achieve an outcome for the Alberta 2030 Post-Secondary Education review that ensures the University of Alberta can continue to deliver research-intensive, world-class academic programming.
- Ensure the University recognizes and hears student voices during academic and administrative restructuring programs

Indigenize campus and fight against the historical suppression of traditional learning and knowledge

- Push for the incorporation of Indigenous content in class materials
- Prioritize Indigenous advocacy as part of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)
- Ensure the completion and analysis of the Aboriginal Academic Success survey
- Advocate for dedicated Indigenous academic advisors to bolster Indigenous student academic success
- Continue progress on the ARRC recommendations
- Incorporate Aboriginal programming into Week of Welcome

5. Build a Better Campus Community

Students need a thriving intellectual campus community that is also safe and diverse. COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of many students and we must be resilient in adapting to the challenges we face, while rebuilding and strengthening the Students' Union.

Ensure that student health and wellness are prioritized

- Offer additional mental health supports online and reduce barriers to access for counselling through EmpowerMe
- Advocate to the provincial government for predictable multi-year funding for mental health
- Work in accordance with the provincial health guidelines and University safety measures to ensure safe operation of the Students' Union Building
- Push the University to expand online mental health supports
- Shift the UASU's existing wellness supports to an accessible online format
- Plan for the creation of new mental wellness spaces in SUB
- Push for the creation of a UAlberta 101 course encompassing mental wellness, academic supports, and personal finance help

Support the diversity of students on campus

- Support the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force in identifying and addressing barriers to students' involvement with the UASU
- Collaborate with international students to identify the challenges which they face
- Ensure UASU mental health supports reflect the diversity of campus

Strengthen the campus community

- Continue to build strong connections between all University of Alberta campuses
- Provide institutional support for student groups

The University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) is the official body that represents all undergraduates, and advocates on their behalf at the university and all levels of government. The UASU is a proactive organization that is run by students for students: we operate a variety of businesses designed to appeal to students, and provide access to a wide range of student-centric services. We also operate - and own - the Students' Union Building, and manage a budget of more than \$14 million, with more than 200 staff.