



23/24

Annual REPORT



YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2024

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President's Message

Reflecting on the 2023-2024 year, I don't believe anyone could have anticipated the amount we would be able to accomplish with only myself in office until the middle of October! Yes, you read that correctly. I was only Executive from May to October; this is something that has never happened at SARDP. In true SA fashion, we were able to learn from this new experience and update our Bylaws to appropriately respond if we do not fill all Executive positions in the General Elections. With one Executive in the office, our team sought a significant amount of guidance from Student Council to ensure our operations were not affected. Even with being faced with new challenges, our team had a successful year, and I am proud of our accomplishments.

One accomplishment I am so proud of is leading the revamp of the SA's Mission, Vision, and Values statements. After countless meetings, surveys, focus groups, and PowerPoints, the SA unveiled and adopted its updated foundational statements in May 2024. I believe these statements will stand the test of time and better encompass the SA.

In the summer, we were contacted by two Psychology students and representatives from Counselling Services who saw a growing need for additional student supports. In January, MindfulU: The Student Mental Health Collective was introduced. MindfulU is held every Wednesday in The Loft and provides peer support, education, relaxation, and connection. The Students' Association was happy to engage with this collaboration and provide a space for this initiative to flourish. Since MindfulU's inception, it has proven to be a welcomed and necessary initiative for students at RDP.

The SA continued to advocate for additional supports in Counselling Services and Accessibility Services. During my time, I personally saw growth in both departments and had the pleasure of being involved in several hiring committees for additional positions. I am hopeful that these additional positions will help to eliminate the long wait times and will have a positive impact on our students. Even with the additional positions, the SA will continue to advocate for even more mental health supports on our campus.

In September, we held the official grand opening of the "Parenting Room." The space had been open prior to my taking office; however, it was wonderful to gather and celebrate the space. As a parent of 3 young children, I know the value of this space on our campus.

In an ongoing journey of reconciliation and in partnership with the public employees of RDP, and the Alumni Association, we purchased an art piece from RDP Alum, Dr. George Littlechild titled "4 Star Art Warrior." The art piece was donated to RDP and is proudly displayed at RDP's main entrance.

I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as President. I will forever cherish my time in office.

Take care of yourself,



Erin Bast
2023-2024 Students' Association President

OUR MISSION

The Students' Association is dedicated to elevating the student experience at Red Deer Polytechnic by offering essential services, effective political representation, and impactful opportunities to enrich their educational journey.

OUR VISION

The students at Red Deer Polytechnic are empowered to thrive in a learning environment where access and connection inspire transformative discovery, encourage a sense of community, and provide opportunities that foster a memorable experience.

OUR VALUES

Affordability & Accessibility

We believe that access to quality education and essential student supports should be barrier free and affordable.

Community & Diversity

We embrace and celebrate the individuality of our Members and foster an inclusive, accessible, and safe community, recognizing that diversity enriches our lives.

Transparency & Accountability

We are accountable to our Members and transparent when making decisions on behalf of our Membership.

Sustainability & Continuity

We are committed to sustaining our organizational continuity by building and maintaining strong relationships, practicing good governance, and prioritizing continuous growth.

Wellness & Inclusion

We invest in the mental, spiritual, and physical wellness of our Members and foster a culture of inclusion, belonging, and growth.



Your Association at a Glance

11,823
Lockers Rented

2,076
Semester Bus Passes Sold

\$11,251
Amount Given for CAT Fund
Sponsored Events

\$38,295
Food Bank Donations

3242
Students on the Health Plan

31
Completed mywellness Assessments



Your Association Membership Fees

GOVERNANCE

The SA is built upon representation and advocacy, as we lobby the government and the institution to ensure students are given an affordable education. The governance fund ensures accountability through elections and protecting student interests. We also assist students with academic appeals and other grievances.

BUILDING FUND

The Students' Association owns and operates its own building for student use. A portion of SA fees are allocated for future expansion, renovations, and general maintenance - including insurance, utilities, janitorial, and repairs.

OPERATIONS & FINANCE

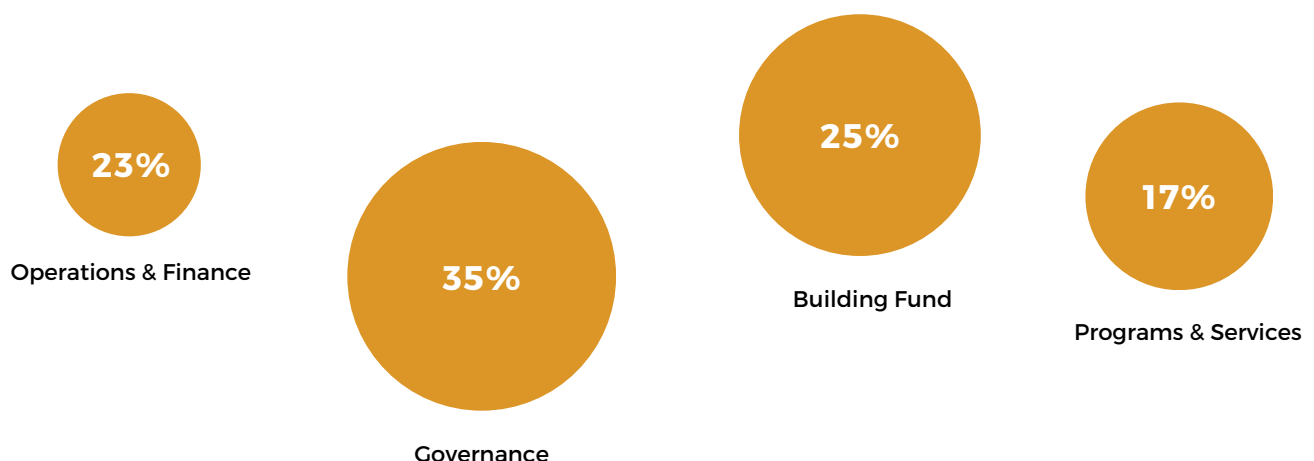
The Operations & Finance budget covers the costs of our annual external audit, legal fees, general expenses (such as telephone, internet, software, and our operational and accounting staff).

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The SA provides the following services:

- Awards & Scholarships
- Communications/Publications
- Cultural Activities Trust Fund
- Mental Health Initiatives
- Health & Dental Plan
- Transit Passes
- Student Groups
- Awareness Campaigns
- Lockers
- Food Bank
- Peer Tutoring
- Free Legal Help

Full-time (9 credits or more)	\$107 per term
Part-time (8 credits or less)	\$55.50 per term
Apprenticeship	\$55.50 per session



*Based on the 2023/2024 Annual Budget

Student Council

Council consists of 12 elected students and the members of Executive Council. Council is the highest governing body of the Students' Association. All major organizational decisions are made by Council, including Bylaw and Policy development, approval of the annual budget, and approval of the audited financial statements. Councillors are elected to govern the affairs of the Association on behalf of the Membership.

The students on Council have many roles and duties. Some of these include ensuring that the opinions and concerns of their fellow students are represented in the decision making of the Council, promoting the interests of the Membership, and putting the interests of the Membership above their own.



Executive Council

Erin Bast
President

Amanda Brouwer
Vice President Academic
October 2023 - April 2024

Jalynn Chilibeck
Vice President External
October 2023 - April 2024



23/24 Election Results

A By-Election was held for vacancies in the offices of Vice President External, Vice President Academic, and Student Council between Wednesday, September 27 and Thursday, October 5. A total of 6 candidates put their names forward for the vacant positions, 2 for Student Council, 1 Vice President Academic, and 3 for Vice President External. Voting days occurred between Tuesday, October 3 and Thursday, October 5 on RDP's The Loop. With a voter turnout of 18.8%, Monique Auring and Jennifer Baron-Cantillo were elected to Student Council. Amanda Brouwer was elected as Vice President Academic and Jalynn Chilibeck as Vice President External.

The General Election for the 2024/2025 year was held between Tuesday, February 6 and Thursday, February 15. 10 candidates put their names forward for 12 vacant positions on Student Council. In addition, we have 1 candidate for the position of President, 1 for Vice President Academic, and 2 for Vice President External. Voting was available on RDP's The Loop between Monday, February 12 and Thursday, February 15. With a voter turnout of 15.8%, Amanda Brouwer, Jalynn Chilibeck, Samuel Johnson and Julianne Ludlam were elected to Student Council. Devyn Shannon was elected as President, Brianne Campbell as Vice President Academic, and Jacq Patterson as Vice President External - they took office on May 1, 2024.

A plebiscite question was included in the General Election. We asked our students "Should all part-time students be eligible for the Extended Health & Dental Benefits plan? Coverage includes, but is not limited to, prescription drugs, vision, mental health practitioners, etc. (Currently only full-time students are eligible.) 88.1% of students were in favor.



Advocacy

Public-Private Partnerships

The Students' Association's Executive team met with the Minister and Ministry of Advanced Education several times to discuss growing concerns regarding a Public-Private Partnership that RDP had entered into with Robertson College. We participated in a Ministerial feedback survey that was provided to the Presidents of Post-Secondary Institutions across Alberta.

SARDP concerns with Public-Private Partnerships included, but were not limited to:

- The absence of legislation and forensic oversight of Public-Private Partnerships
- Lack of tuition regulation policy
- Lack of clarity surrounding essential, front-line student services
- Lack of quality controls in place for the curriculum being delivered by private institutions

The Government of Alberta suspended the development of these programs until a comprehensive framework could be developed. On January 22, 2024, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada confirmed that international graduates of college programs delivered through a public-private curriculum licensing arrangement would no longer be eligible for a post-graduation work permit.

International Student Insurance

In the Spring of 2023, we successfully advocated RDP to be the sole administrator of the International Interim and Repatriation Insurance Plan, *mycanadaplan*.

Provincial Lobby Group

The 2023-2024 Council made the decision to continue our membership with the Alberta Student Executive Council, our provincial lobby group.

Academic Council Constitution Review

A student member of the 2023-2024 Academic Council joined the Academic Council Constitution Review Committee to represent the views of the student body. Academic Council is one of the highest Governing Bodies of RDP and is responsible for recommending to the RDP President:

- Proposed programs of study for credit programs and the granting of academic credentials
- Standards and policies respecting the selection and admission of students to credit programs offered by the Polytechnic.
- Academic policy

Open Educational Resources

The OER Working Group and SA Executive team were part of an effort that succeeded in presenting to each of the various schools at RDP and the RDP Board of Governors to increase awareness of OER on campus, advocate for the adoption of OER in courses, and increase faculty support for creating, adopting, and integrating OERs on campus.

Food Security

Applied to the Alberta Government for a Food Securities Grant for the Association's Emergency Student Food Bank and advocated on behalf of our students to receive this grant. The SA was approved for the grant in April 2024.

Capital Projects

Far Side Grill Kitchen Upgrades

In July 2023, we underwent a minor kitchen renovation and updated several kitchen appliances including, coolers, deep fryers, and heat lamps. We updated the island to be a more functional workspace for the staff.

Security Upgrades

We have been working to update and add more security cameras in Association spaces. Security upgrades are ongoing.



Special Projects

Mission, Vision, and Values

After 20 years with our foundational statements, President Bast embarked on a comprehensive review of our Mission, Vision, and Values statements. In the course of six months, President Bast conducted surveys, held focus groups, consulted Student Council, and staff, and spent many hours perfecting our statements. As per Council's approval, on May 1, 2024, we adopted the updated Mission, Vision, and Values statements.

George Littlechild

In an ongoing journey of reconciliation and in partnership with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) at RDP, and the Alumni Association, we purchased an art piece from RDP Alum, Dr. George Littlechild titled "4 Star Art Warrior." The art piece was donated to RDP students and is proudly displayed at RDP's main entrance. On September 25, we held a special unveiling event as local First Nations leaders, community members, and RDP students, staff, and faculty had the opportunity to listen to Dr. George Littlechild as he shared his personal story. Littlechild's art piece serves as a reminder of the work that needs to continue on our path to truth and reconciliation.



Sustainable Development Goals Accord

On October 31, 2022, Red Deer Polytechnic and the Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic joined 298 other post-secondary institutions and 59 Student Unions around the world in signing the Sustainable Development Goals Accord (SDGA).

The purpose of the SDG Accord is twofold:

First it is to inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the value the interlinked objectives brings to governments, business and wider society.

Second, the Accord is a commitment made by learning institutions to one another, to do more to deliver the SDGs, annually report on individual progress as a Signatory, and do so in ways which share the learning with each other both nationally and internationally. Objectives include annually presenting the updated Accord metrics at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. “

*www.sdgaccord.org



Sustainable Development Goals Accord

What your Students' Association is doing to align with the SDG Accord:

Goal #2 - Zero Hunger

- Free Breakfast Program offered every Tuesday & Wednesday
- Pay-What-You-Can Pasta & Soup Program available in the Far Side Bar & Grill
- Emergency Student Food Bank

Goal #3 - Good Health and Well-Being

- Affordable Health & Dental Program
- International Interim & Repatriation Insurance
- Advocating for Addictions Recovery on campus
- Free menstrual products available in the Far Side Bar & Grill washrooms
- Introduction of MindfulU: The Student Mental Health Collective

Goal #4 - Quality Education

- Disbursement of over \$50,000 annually in scholarships, awards, and bursaries
- Advocating and educating on the benefits of Open Educational Resources
- Lobbying the Government of Alberta for more affordable tuition and fees

Goal #5 - Gender Equality

- Progressive Pride Flag painted on 2 crosswalks on campus
- Permanent Progressive Pride Flags at the RDP front entrance
- Introduction of RDP Pride Week in March
- Lobbying for gender-neutral washrooms on campus

Goal #8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Employing Red Deer Polytechnic students in the Far Side Bar & Grill, The Lift, and on the Street Team
- Hiring RDP graduates for key staff roles

Goal #10 - Reduced Inequalities

- Parenting Room
- Permanent Treaty 6 & 7 and Metis Flags at the RDP front entrance
- Multiple events each week during Black History Month

Goal #15 - Life on Land

- Auto shut-off lights in the Students' Association office
- Energy efficient lighting in the SA Office, Far Side Bar & Grill, and Lift

23/24 Financial Summary



Pivotal LLP
 #201, 33 McKenzie Crescent
 Red Deer County, Alberta
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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Students' Association Council of: Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at April 30, 2024 and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic for the year ended April 30, 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditors' report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditors' report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated October 7, 2024.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Red Deer County, Alberta
 October 7, 2024

Chartered Professional Accountants

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION APRIL 30, 2024

ASSETS	2024	2023
CURRENT ASSETS.....	\$ 1,587,962	\$ 1,669,990
OTHER ASSETS.....	2,217,633	1,498,546
CAPITAL ASSETS (NET OF ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION).....	1,145,451	1,183,622
	<u>\$ 4,951,046</u>	<u>\$ 4,352,158</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES.....	\$ 736,276	\$ 416,643
NET ASSETS		
Net investment in capital assets.....	1,145,451	1,183,622
Unrestricted net assets.....	1,309,150	1,310,370
Internally restricted reserves.....	1,760,169	1,441,523
	<u>\$ 4,951,046</u>	<u>\$ 4,352,158</u>

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUE - net.....	\$ 1,396,159	\$ 1,354,280
EXPENSES.....	1,024,783	882,972
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE THE FOLLOWING	<u>371,376</u>	<u>471,308</u>
Amortization of capital assets.....	(90,527)	(92,211)
Gain (loss) on disposal of capital assets.....	(1,594)	1,320
	<u>(92,121)</u>	<u>(90,891)</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES.....	<u>\$ 279,255</u>	<u>\$ 380,417</u>

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Membership Engagement

In July 2023, we expanded our Member Engagement team with the hiring of a Member Engagement Assistant. With the additional support, we were able to increase our event and initiative offerings. We continued to offer Free Breakfast Programs, Communita, Puppy Rooms, Risqué Bingo, Volunteer Expo, etc. We introduced more initiatives during Black History Month, Truth and Reconciliation, RDP Pride Week, and Indian Culture Week.

In Winter 2024, we partnered with two RDP Psychology students and Counselling Services to introduce MindfulU: The Student Mental Health Collective. The Psychology students approached us and Counselling Services with a goal to create innovative initiatives that fostered community and connection among students, both within the Polytechnic and the broader community. MindfulU is offered on Wednesday's from 9:00am to 1:00pm in The Loft.



Services

535
Emergency Food Bank Hampers

773
Fed by the Emergency Student Food Bank

\$2,467.12
Collected from the Soup & Pasta Program

20
Email Newsletters sent

20
Student Groups

422
Total combined student group members



Services Con't

CAT Fund

The Cultural Activities Trust Fund (CAT Fund) helps fund cultural events held on campus. Both students and faculty contribute to the fund and sit on the committee to review and approve subsidy applications.

This year, CAT Fund assisted the Agora Conference, Student Science Conference, the Indigenous Perspective Conference, Psychology Symposium, and Entertainment in Academia with Student Conference, and collectively provided them with \$11,251 in funding.

SIP

SIP (Student Initiatives Program) helps fund events to showcase leadership, help our members grow personally and professionally, and foster new items while promoting change. We did not have any SIP applications during the 2023/2024 year.



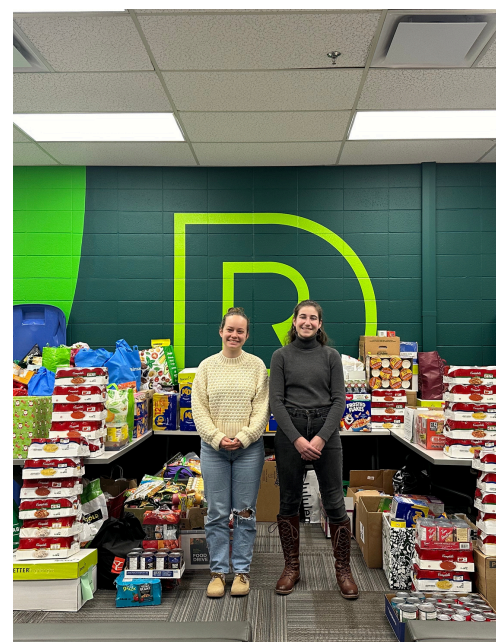
Emergency Food Bank

Our student-run emergency food bank is one of our busiest services on campus and this year, we saw a slight decrease in use. In 2023/2024 we fed 773 students and their families with 535 food hampers. When compared to 2022/2023, this is a decrease of 103 hampers and 148 people.

We rely on the kindness of donors from the institution as well as the greater Red Deer area. We have food bank donation cans in the Lift and Far Side Bar & Grill and we accept donations on our website and over the phone. During the 2023/2024 year, we received \$10,000 donations from both the Alumni Association and Red Deer Polytechnic, bringing our total donations to \$38,295.10 for the year.

The Soup Program began in 2019/2020 and later expanded to include pasta. Each purchase of soup and pasta at the Far Side Grill is sold on a "pay-what-you-can" basis, and each dollar spent is put towards our Emergency Student Food Bank. This year, the Soup & Pasta Program donated \$2,467.12 to the cause.

We are grateful to those who donated and made a difference to our students.



Businesses: Far Side Bar & Grill and Lift

Lift Most Popular Items

- Bubble Tea
- Coffee

New Lift Items

- Ice Cream: Melona, Drumsticks, and various Ice Cream Sandwiches and cups

Far Side Grill Specials

- Chicken Wings
- Screaming Chicken Sandwich
- Chicken Sausage and Rice
- Sweet Chili Burger
- Fries Deluxe
- Mushroom Swiss Burger

Quick Facts

3,156
Burgers Sold

9,473
Coffees Sold in the Far Side Grill & Lift

13,156
Orders of Fries

Curly Fries Poutine
Most Popular Item in Far Side Grill

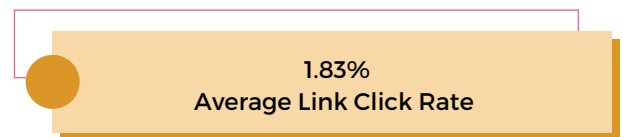
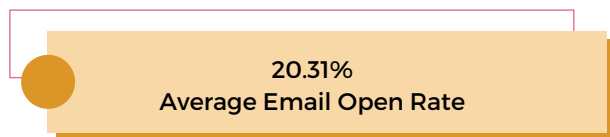
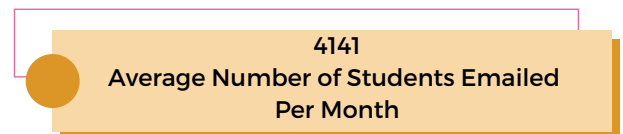
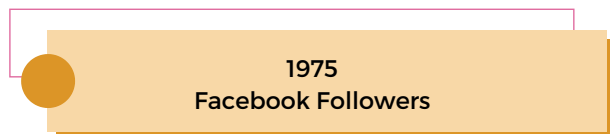
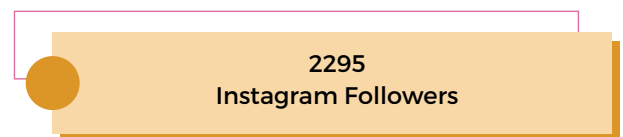
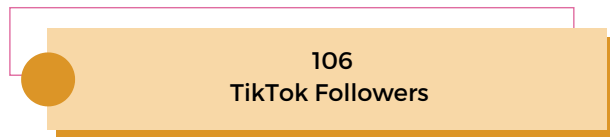


Marketing & Social Media

Social media and emailed newsletters continued to be an effective method to connect with our Members. In August 2023, we created a TikTok account to expand our reach. We utilize emailed newsletters to share about our upcoming events, our various services, and to survey our students. In November, we surveyed students to gather feedback on our Mission, Vision, and Values Statements.

We continued to utilize our TV at the bottom of the SA stairs, posters, and pop-up promo events to advertise our programs, services, and campaigns.

Quick Facts



Scholarships & Awards

The Students' Association is dedicated to supporting and encouraging student endeavors and pursuits. We are currently sponsoring more than 50 awards and scholarships totaling over \$50,000 each year!

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Danielle LeBlanc

INVOLVEMENT IN COLLEGE GOVERNANCE SCHOLARSHIP

Tia Rudd

Brianne Campbell

DR. GUILLERMO BARRON PHILOSOPHY SCHOLARSHIP

Calvin Nielsen

TERRY WOOD SCHOLARSHIP

Jessica Dewald

COLLEGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION TO STUDENT AFFAIRS

Samantha Cooley-Morrison

STUDENT GROUP AWARD

ACES

Black Student Society

ROY NORTH SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Henri

OUTSTANDING DEDICATION

Candice Brown

Lauryn Dumont

Ryan McConkey

Rachel Rex

Jessica Dewald

MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE AWARD

Candice Brown

Amalia Uliniuc

Dusty Karpovich

Ryan McConkey

Brianne Campbell

STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARD

Annika Mouly

Amalia Uliniuc

Devyn Dowe

Shree Aiyer

Chloe Masters

PART TIME STAFF MEMBER

Cali Gulka

Mary Dahlia Joy Donoso

Chinwe Chieze

Our People

Councillors

Akua Appiah
Monique Auring
Danilo Batac
Amanda Brouwer
Jennifer Buaron-Cantillo
Brienne Campbell
Jalynn Chilibeck

Sukhmanjit Kaur
Jhanvi Khanna
Zuleyma Lozano Mendina
Emmanuel Mustapha
Devyn Shannon
Ryan Henri
Rachel Rex

Executive Council

Erin Bast, President

Amanda Brouwer, VP Academic
October 2023 - April 2024

Jalynn Chilibeck, VP External
October 2023 - April 2024

Academic Council

Devyn Shannon
Asher Jordan
Julianne Ludlam
Mayami Jyoti
Marian Young

Jalynn Chilibeck
Erin Bast
Amanda Brouwer
Brienne Campbell

Board of Governors

Tia Rudd
Erin Bast

Council Chairperson

Anne Marie Watson

Election Officials

Martin Cruz, Elections Officer
Jaismine Kaur, Deputy Returning
Office



Our People

Students' Association Office

Liz Sweiger, Executive Director
Marie Evangelista, Operations Director
Jessica Walker, Member Engagement Manager
Marian Young, Governance & Student Support Coordinator
Kirsten Lowe, Member Engagement Assistant
Lovejeet Kaur Dhillon, Human Resources Coordinator
Conny Czarinah Galam, Accounting & Operations Support

Far Side Bar & Grill

Patti Drover, Far Side Grill Supervisor
Rodrigo Morataya, Far Side Bar Supervisor
Mark Bachar
Jermy Iliscupidez
Kenneth Rebote
Marian Canas
Sofia Evangelista
Mia Kristel D. Perdio
Joy Donoso
Shaylyn Hughes-Farrell
Mars Sardua

Lift

Jill Brown, Lift Supervisor
Cali Gulka
Casey Zulita

Street Team

Chantall Luzong
Jazzie Rivera
Chinwe Chiezie