The Students’ Union is guided by a strategic plan which is reviewed and renewed every three years. This plan illustrates the vision, mission and values of the SU and guides the allocation of resources towards student priorities. This past year, the 76th executives drafted and the Students’ Legislative Council (the SU’s elected highest governing body) approved a new strategic for the SU for 2019-2022.

Each year, the SLC also approves an annual operating plan which developed by the executives to direct their work for their term. The 76th executive created their plan for 2018-2019 with goals divided into three key priorities: engage with students, strengthen the organization, and prioritize advocacy.

**THIS REPORT**

This report aims to inform students and the campus community on the progress and changes completed by the SU over the 2018-2019 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.

Want to keep up with the SU? Follow us on your favourite social media platform!

www.su.ucalgary.ca
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.
The Students’ Legislative Council (SLC) made several notable changes to several Union Policy documents with the goal of increasing transparency, accountability, and accessibility in student governance. During its term, the SLC:

- Updated definition, authority, and policy positions for the Sustainability Advocacy Policy;
- Streamlined and clarified sections of the Committee of 10,000 Terms of Reference;
- Updated the Teaching Excellence Awards Committee Terms of Reference and Teaching Excellence Awards Procedure to ensure effective parameters for governance of the committee;
- Updated the SLC Code of Conduct to include expectations of Elected Officials regarding Union Elections to promote transparency and accountability of currently elected members;
- Expanded membership and clarified duties and responsibilities for members of the Refugee Student Board;
- Added a clause to the Operations and Finance Committee Terms of Reference which gives greater autonomy for financial spending of the Refugee Student Program;
- Adopted a new Open Educational Resources Advocacy Policy;
- Strengthened the Elections Policy to enable meaningful participation of the student population by clarifying definitions and expanding on the expectations of campaign groups;
- Introduced an updated definition of Election Officials in all Union Policy which reflects current use;
- Amended the roles and responsibilities of Executives in the Union Bylaw;
- Amended Chairing responsibilities and introduced Vice-Chairing for some SLC Committees; and
- Updated definitions in the Union Bylaw to be more consistent with current practice.
UCalgary students continue to enjoy some of the lowest student union fees in the country while at the same time they benefit from the large number of businesses, programs, and services offered by their SU. This is possible through the strong financial stewardship of student money by the SU. Each year the SLC approves an annual operating budget of nearly $13 million.

In accordance with the Union Bylaw, SLC, its Operations and Finance Committee, and the General Manager authorized extra-budgetary expenditures to a maximum of $49,905.00 during the 2018-2019 year. The largest authorization was $33,373.00 to account for cost increases of the Den and Black Lounge walkway project. The other $16,532.00 went to accommodate costs such as Get out the Vote funding and refugee student supports.

We run multiple, successful businesses in Mac Hall, and the profits from these continue to make up about 90 percent of our annual revenue.

The annual operating budget is available for review, along with a breakdown of fees and the SU’s financial statements, on our website.

92% of our revenue comes from our family of businesses:

- **MacEwan conference & event centre**: $4,295,525
- **The Den**: $1,783,025
- **stør**: $1,267,585
- **Bound and Copied**: $544,950
- **La Taqueria**: $121,600
- **Lease revenue from MacHall**: $2,618,642
- **MacHall**: $1,852,088

8% of our revenue comes from student fees:

- **Business operations ($16.45)**
  This money is invested into our businesses which turn around and bring in revenue used to fund the vast majority of our operations.

- **Administration and accounting ($6.02)**
  This makes sure that we have a financial team that keeps our finances balances and our funds accounted for.

- **Building maintenance ($4.00)**
  As building managers we make sure that Mac Hall is looking its best and working for students.

- **Programs and services ($3.45)**
  This includes programs and services like funding for student Clubs, the Q Centre, SU Campus Food Bank, Clubs and a variety of on-campus events.

- **Marketing and communications ($1.43)**
  Marketing and communications spreads the word about what the SU is doing, promote programs and services for students and work to strengthen the campus community.

- **Student government and non-partisan advocacy ($1.16)**
  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.

**UCalgary Students have not had an increase in the SU operating fee since 1995.**
FUNDING FOR CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT

The SU approved funding allocations for 18 projects, totaling $1.84 million, that benefit students through the Quality Money program. These include:

- Adding waste-sorting kiosks to Mac Hall Food Court
- Modernizing and improving study carrels to the Math Sciences hallway
- Ensuring the continuation of the Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) program
- Providing Indigenous cultural resources through the Native Centre’s ASSERT program
- Supporting Social Work students during practicum placements with grants
- Upgrading student computers in the TFDL
- A start-up grant for the Students’ Union Mental Health Scholarship
- Providing Indigenous Focusing Oriented Therapy training for counsellors in the SU Wellness Centre
- Replacing worn-out microwaves to the Mac Hall food court
- Connecting less-active students with personal training and peer mentorship through the Ignite program
- Renovating collaborative learning spaces in the Doucette Library
- Replacing and upgrading lockers in Science Theatres and Craigie Hall
- Implementing a robust Student Peer Helper Professional Development Program
- Renovating the first-floor washrooms by the Hunter Hub in Mac Hall
- Offering Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIRT) in Faculty of Nursing
- Funding to support the Level Up program that encourages students to get involved on campus
- Installing a stationary cycle-powered charging and study station in the TFDL
- Renovating the third-floor washrooms by the Last Defense Lounge and Native Centre in Mac Hall
Mac Hall serves a campus population of approximately 40,000 people and welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a week during the busy fall and winter semesters. As building manager, the Students’ Union strives to provide a clean, safe, and welcoming building environment, provides food court and common space cleaning services, and administers the recycling programs for Mac Hall and other areas of campus. We also strive to continuously improve the space to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of students. In 2018-2019, the three major renovation projects that we complete were:

- the modernization of Speakers Corner (the study area beside Jugo Juice),
- an addition of a ramp to the Den and Black Lounge patio – making the space more accessible, and
- a complete renovation of the Mac Hall Ballroom.
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.
CLUBS
The SU provides supports for student-led activities on campus through our clubs system. Clubs who register with the SU have free access to space, funding, and various other kinds of assistance throughout the year. For more information on what we provide to student clubs, and a complete listing of all our clubs, visit our website.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Since 1984, the SU have recognized outstanding teaching at the University of Calgary with the Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA). TEA are the only teaching awards on campus where students determine the nominees and winners. This year, 1,164 students submitted nominations and the SU honoured 41 instructors and teaching assistants for their commitment to student success. The full list of award winners is available on our website.

STRESSLESS WEEK
At the end of every fall term, the SU organizes drop-in activities to help students combat stress. This year, we offered several activities, including extra Pet Therapy sessions, yoga classes, free massages, bath bomb building, cookie decorating, art therapy, and a very popular build-your-own-terrarium workshop. Everything was free for students – 947 participated – and an integral part of the SU and its commitment to good mental health.

There were 354 active clubs, holding more than 5,300 events last year, that are recognized and supported by the SU.
A total of 13,727 hours were worked by 389 SU volunteers last year.

The Volunteer Tax Program completed a record 1,300 student tax returns for free last year.

Last year, 43 volunteers contributed 789 service-learning hours to community organizations in Calgary through our Into the Streets program.

The SU started distributing free period products to students in 2017, available at the Information Centre and the main SU offices. More than 13,000 period products were given out last year.

The SU’s Q Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity strives to create a safe, comfortable, and open space for LGBTQIA+ 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 LGBTQIA+ community on campus.

Last year, the Information Centre/Lost and Found answered 9,402 questions and received 4,688 lost items.

PET THERAPY

Our monthly Pet Therapy events continue to be some of our most popular with students. We partner the Pet Access League Society to bring therapy dogs to campus to help students manage their stress. Last year, 1,445 people attended.
The SU handed out $51,726 in travel grants, enabling 305 students to attend conferences and competitions, nationally and internationally.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

This symposium is designed to encourage and celebrate undergraduate research across faculties. Each year students are encouraged to submit their projects to compete for awards in various categories. Last year, a record 36 awards totalling $31,000 were given out.

CAMPUS FOOD BANK

The SU’s Campus Food Bank provides 7-day emergency hampers to campus community members. They also offer other programs designed to address student hunger on campus. SU volunteers perform client intakes, pack food hampers, and assist with general food bank operations. Last year, 42 volunteers worked over 2,000 hours to support Campus Food Bank programming and services, including the Breakfast Program. They fed 2,522 people.

REFUGEE STUDENT PROGRAM

Working with the World University Service of Canada and the University of Calgary, the SU sponsors two refugee students to come and study here each year. Not only do we offer financial support, we also assist these students in becoming acclimated to ensure they will be successful. This year, we received two Somali students who were living in a refugee camp in Kenya.
The SU continues to have tremendous success representing the needs of students to the university and all levels of government. Our advocacy efforts continue to be effective, and we saw progress and successes on various issues over the past year.
After years of advocacy to increase the affordability and predictability of tuition and fees for students, the SU helped convince the Government of Alberta to pass Bill 19 – An Act to Improve the Affordability and Accessibility of Post-secondary Education. Moreover, it passed with near unanimous support from across the Legislature. This bill ensures that tuition will not increase by more than the rate of inflation, gives students more predictability when it comes to mandatory non-instructional fees, guarantees that international students know what they will pay for each year of their degree when they are offered admittance, and mandates increased student association consultation when any new fee or exceptional tuition increase is proposed by an institution. Bill 19 also continued the tuition freeze, which began in 2015, until the end of the 2019-20 academic year.

The Mac Hall Expansion and Redevelopment Survey was administered from September 6 to 27, 2018. The purpose of this survey was to gauge student interest in an expansion and collect feedback on areas of focus for any future redevelopment of the MacEwan Building, commonly known as Mac Hall. The survey found most respondents would be interested in an expansion and update of the MacEwan Building. The survey was then used to begin a conversation with the university about building expansion.

After years of SU advocacy, the Government of Canada took steps to make sure that student loans are more affordable for the students who need them. They did this by lowering the floating interest rate to prime and increasing the interest-free grace period to six months. This means that students who graduate with Canada Student Loans will have six months, interest-free, to begin paying them back. This brings the federal program in line with the Alberta Student Aid grace period, leading to less confusion for students.

During the Canada Alliance of Students’ Association’s (CASA) fall advocacy week, the SU, along with our peers from across Canada, advocated for all students to have access to work-integrated learning opportunities. Specifically, we argued for the expansion of funding to increase in non-traditional faculties such as business, humanities, and arts. The Government of Canada, in their 2019 budget, responded and promised that within ten years every student in Canada who wants a work-integrated learning opportunity will get one. This goal was accompanied by an investment of $631.2 million over five years to support 20,000 new work placements per year for post-secondary students in all programs through the Student Work Placement Program.
GET OUT THE VOTE

With the goal of showing decision makers in Alberta that students do indeed vote, the SU ran an eight-month Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign which engaged with over 4,800 students. This non-partisan campaign focused on helping answer student questions about voting, including where, when, and how to vote. The SU engaged over 20 volunteers who spoke to students through activations, street teams, and classroom visits to encourage them to pledge to vote. We then texted and emailed students in the days leading up to the election to remind them to vote and point them to valuable resources. The campaign was run along side our colleagues at the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) which had over 10,000 students pledge to vote across the province.

INCREASED INVESTMENT FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Following the recommendations of the Assembly of First Nations, the SU and CASA have for years advocated for a substantial increase in investment for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, which assists Indigenous learners with the financial barriers that exist when accessing a post-secondary education. The Government of Canada announced they would invest $327 million over five years to renew the program as well as investing $125 million over ten years to the Inuit-led post-secondary strategy and $362 million over ten years to the Metis-led strategy. This is a step in the right direction for both reconciliation and to decrease the financial barriers that exist for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis students.

CHANGES TO THE SU HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN

After many years of work the SU has implemented a new payment system for the SU Health and Dental Plan – the rolling 12 payment format. This allows students to enroll in the plan any month of the year, rather than only the beginning of the fall of winter semesters. This change also means that students will pay once for their coverage rather than per semester. This addresses a coverage issue brought up by students in the past and will ensure that the SU Health and Dental Plan remains financial sustainable.

INCREASED INVESTMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES

In order to address an oversight that CASA had noted after the 2016 federal budget, the Government of Canada expanded the Canada Student Loan Program to further support students with permanent disabilities. The government did this by increasing the cap on the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities from $8,000 to $20,000, by expanding the eligibility for Severe Permanent Disability Benefits so that more students with severe permanent disabilities can qualify for loan forgiveness, and by making it easier for students with permanent disabilities to return to school after long absences through changes to the Repayment Assistance Plan. These changes make it easier for students with permanent disabilities to access a post-secondary education.
76th Students’ Legislative Council

BACK ROW (Left to right):
Raquel Jackson (Arts), Candace Cho (Nursing), Marissa Bennett (Social Work), Ioana Rontu (Engineering), Mairéad Whelan (Medicine), Bassam Saifeddine (Law), Tina Miller (Education), Julie Choi (Medicine), Quinn Stevenson (Arts), Michael Nguyen (Science), Jarin Thundathil (Medicine), Hyatt Mokhtar (Science), Sadiya Nazir (Science), Emma Hopper (Speaker)

FRONT ROW (Left to right):
Dana Nasser (Arts), Mathieu Chin (Kinesiology), Ahsen Imran (Engineering), Nabila Farid (VP Student Life), Jessica Revington (VP Academic), Sagar Grewal (President), Anayat Sidhu (VP External), Kevin Dang (VP Operations and Finance), Davis Lougheed (Business), Ananya Ayachit (Business), Marley Gilles (Arts)