

Candidates for VPSL

Nathan Lacroix -VPSL Platform

Graduation's just around the corner, and you're still not sure if you've had the full university experience. No worries, I got you! If elected as your VP of Student Life, I guarantee that before you walk out the doors of academia, you will be able to confidently say that you've taken advantage of all that university has to offer. My name is Nathan Lacroix, and I am a fourth-year international student from The Bahamas studying Biology minoring in Business. For as long as I can remember, even before my university journey began, I envisioned myself being involved on campus. I knew that if I wanted to fully experience university life, I had to fully immerse myself. As a student, I have made many friends who motivate me to want to make campus life more inclusive and exciting. I lived in residence and served as a RLA for two (2) years. I currently serve as the Clubs and Events Coordinator at the UPEISU. These opportunities have allowed me to interact with people from various backgrounds. Serving in these capacities has equipped me with numerous skills and experiences that I feel are needed for this role. With this goal in mind, here are two things I hope to achieve during the Winter semester if elected.

Pub nights every Fridays or Saturdays nights

The Fox and Crow is our campus pub and cafe. A pub is where you can go after a long week of work, have a drink, dance with some friends and be free. On the other hand, a cafe is a nice chill place where you can grab a coffee and read a book. But what good is our campus pub and cafe if it's mostly a cafe? If elected as your VP of Student Life, I will

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make it my goal to have your school's pub open on weekends, where you will be able to have a good time. Depending on the popular vote, the pub will be open either Fridays or Saturdays. With this happening, it provides a cheaper and much safer option for the students here at UPEI. On-campus residents will be able to walk from their dorms, and off-campus residents will be able to catch the panther patrol to the pub nights. There will be different themes for the pub each weekend, which will make it diverse and inclusive. In doing this, the Fox and Crow will live up to being both a pub and cafe and you as students will have a fun, close, safe environment to socialize.

Make events more diverse and inclusive

Not everyone is the same, and that is what makes us unique! The UPEI student population is very diverse, with individuals from different nationalities, sexual orientations and interests. Not all events hosted by the SU cater to these different individuals. If elected as your VPSL, I hope to incorporate more small or large-scale events to accommodate everyone.

More than anything, my ultimate goal if elected as VPSL is to give you, the students of UPEI, a voice. After all, the student union represents you. I am not afraid of a challenge and will fight for each and every one of you. If you would like to reach out to me, contact me on Instagram (@_the.heir) or facebook(Nathan Lacroix) with any questions or suggestions.

Anthonia Bebiem -VPSL Platform

Hello Panthers,

My name is Anthonia Bebiem, and I am running to be your Vice President Student Life. I am a current International student in the computer science program. As an international student in such a diverse college, my experience has allowed me to witness the problems that students face. I have taken note of all these challenges, and I believe that I have the skill, resources and, most importantly, the passion for advocating for you. My goal as the Vice President of Student Life is to listen and serve. It's that simple. I intend to amplify the actual needs of the student body, and here's how:

Panther Club House:

With school fully transitioning to full-time in-person, my goal is to assist the new and existing students on campus to ease back into the new normal. I intend to serve and do so appropriately; I have to be attentive and listen to the genuine concerns of the panther community. It is my goal to incorporate a minimum of three check-in sessions a semester which I would call "panther clubhouse." Such gatherings would be held at the beginning, mid, and end of the semester, virtually and in person, as a community check-in. As VP of Student Life, I will listen to our students and better serve and address their concerns in any aspect of academic and non-academic issues. For the students who feel reluctant to voice their concerns out loud, I hope to make an incentive survey where they can freely express their problems without any hesitation. It is my goal to have everyone involved as possible through this initiative.

Mental Health:

As someone who genuinely understands the stigma around mental illness, especially being from a different culture, I intend to restructure the lens through which mental health is discussed and addressed on campus. One example is preparing mental health resource packages that will be vetted and approved by the professional in the student affairs for clubs. I would encourage but not mandate that every club have a dedicated time allocated to discuss and educate themselves about mental health. My goal is to reach all struggling students through the club and societies and direct them to the mental health resources on campus that they may not be aware of is available for them. Also, as VP Student Life, I will introduce "De-stress Zones" in all campus buildings, which will include pamphlets and educational material on mental health and resources to get help. My goal is to also create spaces in all campus buildings where students can destress during the hectic school semester.

Campus Diversity:

When the term diversity is brought up, one often thinks of race. The UPEISU, as it continues to grow, is a multifaceted, diverse body ranging from different cultures, religions and sexes. As the VP Student Life of such a body, my goal is to work hand in hand with the minority groups on campus to create an event once a semester where the voices and values are heard and appreciated. This entails working with the minority clubs and society, celebrating their customs, and continually bridging the gap that exists despite our differences.

I appreciate your consideration, and I am looking forward to being the bridge between the student body, the student union, and the university.