



Report of the Board

Capilano Students' Union

Presented at the Semi-Annual General Meeting (February 17, 2022)

Members of the Capilano Students' Union,

Welcome to the 2022 semi-annual general meeting!

We're super excited to welcome you back to campus this term (And it's still only February!) as we find new ways of engaging with you both in-person and online. Hopefully health restrictions keep easing, and more opportunities will appear for us to connect!

We know that this is a time of anxiety and of new and unexpected challenges as we all adjust to a new balance of in-person and online learning. Remember that the CSU is here to advocate for the interests and concerns of students, so if you need we are here for you. We've also continued constant dialogue with the administration to ensure students' concerns are heard and addressed.

The CSU is here to support you. Many of our programs and services are now available both in-person and online, making support from the students' union more accessible than ever before to students from all campuses and locations. And as all we do is for the students, you can always count on us to at least point you in the right direction.

We can't do what we do without *your* input and involvement. The CSU exists to help students and advocate for your issues. We would love to hear from you, and there are plenty of ways to do it. You can [book an appointment](#) with the executive team (me, for example!) or visit our friendly staff at our member services desk in the Library building.

There are plenty of ways to get involved, too – you can [volunteer with us](#), [join a committee](#), or even consider running to be a member of our board of directors next for the 2022–2023 term. Nominations for the upcoming general elections are open and you can get your candidate package at the member services desk in the Library building or online! The CSU is made for you and by you! We are here together and it's amazing to have you with us!

Maia Lomelino

President



People

The work of the Capilano Students' Union would not be possible without the people who make up our team. As a student association, the Capilano Students' Union is led by a board of passionate student leaders who provide leadership, oversight, and who determine the direction of the organization; they're supported by a team of professionals who carry out the board's decisions and policies.

Board

Maia Lomelino	President
Mackenzie Gibson	Vice-President Equity & Sustainability
Aryanna Chartrand	Vice-President External
Akira Yamagishi	Vice-President Finance & Services
Zabir Montazar	Vice-President Student Affairs
Feven Kidane	Black Students Liaison
Riley Simmons	Indigenous students Liaison (acting)
Mayumi Izumi	Mature & Parent Students Liaison
Shawn Caldera	Students of Colour Liaison
Juliette Purkiss	Queer Students Liaison
Negar Leil	Women Students Liaison
Brigid Mychael	<i>Kálaḡ-ay</i> , Sunshine Coast Campus Representative
Clara Duwel	Arts & Sciences Representative
Terrence Alanis	Business & Professional Studies Representative
Itsuki Yokoyama	At-large Representative
Sasya Dwiputri	At-large Representative
Khwaish Kochhar	Senate (Capilano University)
Anmol Singh	Senate (Capilano University)
Harmanjot Kaur	Board of Governors Representative (Capilano University)

Staff

Israa Al-Sakab	Frontline Operations Assistant
Asive Cebani	Director, Student Associations
Donna Cole	Director, Indigenous Initiatives
Jessica De Gaust	Executive Assistant
Allan de Jesus	Director, Technical Services
Saulo Ferreira	Financial Controller
Christopher Girodat	Executive Director
Kate Jarman	Director, Student Spaces
Prabhnoor Kaur	Office Coordinator
Lori Kosciuw	Director, Advocacy
Ann Luo	Director, Programs
John Morrison	Director, Communications
Vy Nguyen	Member Services Assistant
Erik Nieweler	Research Assistant
Valerie Pham	Communications Assistant
Antonette Piamonte	Event Assistant
Zofia Rodriguez	Recreation & Wellness Coordinator
Joshua Thomas	Director, Policy & Campaigns

Update on Advocacy

Introduction

The Capilano Students' Union advocates to the university, all levels of government, and other agencies (such as TransLink and BC Transit) to improve learning and living conditions for students. This work happens through action and awareness campaigns, and also through direct advocacy with university and government decision-makers.

Affordability Campaigns

Make the Switch



The Capilano Students' Union continues to push instructors to “Make the Switch” to open educational resources, to ensure that students spend less on expensive textbooks.

When we last reported to you, we informed you that students had saved over \$300,000 in 2021 by instructors making the switch to open educational resources, and those savings continue to grow. In the Spring 2022 term, over 20 courses are using open educational resources.

This means that **700+ students are saving over \$120,000** just this semester! We want to thank the students that came forward and nominated instructors during the campaign! Through your submissions, 32 new faculty members were nominated, and we are seeing this number continue to grow.

Student Renters

The Capilano Students' Union is **lobbying the government to extend the rent freeze** to ensure that students are not priced out of market rentals. We are bringing your voice to Victoria to ensure that the province understands that it has been hard to make ends meet during the public health emergency, and now is not the time to increase rent.

To support student renters, we have also **created a group for roommate matching**. We know how tough it can be to find safe and affordable housing – [click here](#) to meet other Capilano University students in a private group to look for CapU roommates.

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Awareness Campaigns

I ♥ Consent



The Capilano Students' Union and Capilano University have partnered to develop the "I ♥ Consent" campaign to educate members of the university community on how to practice and promote consent, challenge rape culture, and support survivors. The campaign includes several educational opportunities throughout the year.

Sustainability Campaign



As part of our ongoing sustainability campaign, the Capilano Students' Union has **partnered with our friends at the Edible Garden Project** to provide monthly workshops on how to grow sustainable food right at home. [Click here](#) to check out upcoming workshops, as well as some handy sustainability resources.

We are starting **divestment discussions with Capilano University** to ensure that students' tuition dollars are not being used to prop up the fossil fuel sector through the university's investments.

We recently conducted **a survey of students' climate justice priorities**, and have heard that Capilano University students are concerned about the impacts of climate change, and that students are interested in seeing day-to-day changes at CapU in terms of on-campus recycling and waste reduction programs.

Relations with Government

Every year the Capilano Students' Union meets with federal, provincial, and local policy-makers to ensure that the interests of Capilano University students are front-and-centre when making decisions affecting post-secondary educational policy.

Provincial

The Capilano Students' Union meets regularly with provincial officials to influence post-secondary educational policy and other provincial issues affecting students. Much

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of our work on the provincial stage is undertaken in partnership with the Alliance of British Columbia Students, our provincial student advocacy group.

Affordable Housing: The Capilano Students' Union opposes allowances for rent increases while students are still navigating the pandemic, and we are currently reviewing how to respond to recent changes to rent increase rules that allow for landlords to impose additional rent increases on tenants for capital expenses.

COVID-19 Supports: The Capilano Students' Union has lobbied the provincial health officer and the minister to ensure that the B.C. Vaccine Card program did not leave disabled students behind; we have also been working closely with the Alliance of British Columbia Students to encourage the province and universities to ensure that every student has hybrid and online learning options available to them.

Sexual Violence Campaign: The Capilano Students' Union has been participating in consultations on how British Columbia can modernize the sexual violence prevention and awareness campaign that it runs on an annual basis, and our lobbying with the Alliance of British Columbia Students on this file has included demands that the province provides additional guidance and resources to post-secondary institutions to more effectively prevent and address sexual violence on- and off-campus.

Federal

While universities and advanced education themselves are within the province's constitutional jurisdiction, there are a number of issues that interface with student interests that are the responsibility of the federal government, and so the Capilano Students' Union meets regularly with federal officials on student issues.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations: A few weeks ago, the board of directors made the decision to withdraw the Capilano Students' Union from membership in the national advocacy organization, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).

Local

The Capilano Students' Union meets with Indigenous governments on the North Shore as well as local mayors and councillors to ensure that students' needs are being considered at the local level. These discussions include public transit, feedback on the development of student housing projects, and relationship-building.

Transit: We're also actively looking at how we can support North Shore governments, including the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw and the səlilil' wətaʔt, in recent coordinated advocacy efforts to expand rapid North Shore transit.

Introduction Meetings: As we continue work on our relationship-building strategy with host nations, staff have been meeting with education staff from the Skwxwú7mesh

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Úxwumixw and səlilil' wətaʔt about how the Capilano Students' Union can support the efforts of local Indigenous governments in the advocacy work that we do.

Living Wage: In partnership with the Living Wage for Families campaign, and advancing our own priority to ensure livable wages for students employed in the region, we continue to advocate for local governments on the North Shore to become living wage employers, and to encourage their local businesses and organizations to do the same.

Transit Authorities

The Capilano Students' Union meets regularly with officials from TransLink, and with our colleagues from other student societies and post-secondary institutions in the region, to ensure that students have access to adequate and affordable public transit services.

Service Frequency: As TransLink continues to restore and rebuild service levels as ridership begins recovering in this stage of the pandemic, we are lobbying for improved frequency for the 245 shuttle route between Phibbs Exchange and Capilano University, and for 212 route servicing the CapU Residence.

U-Pass BC Program: Understanding that there are students who continue to face unique challenges with respect to transit affordability during the pandemic, we have renewed our U-Pass BC Hardship Fund in order to continue providing financial support to students with demonstrated financial need – for an amount equivalent to 50% of U-Pass BC fees. To apply for the Spring 2022 term, head over to csu.bc.ca/upass.

Relations with Capilano University

Senior Administration

The Capilano Students' Union meets regularly with the university administration to advocate for students. Our discussions continue to be centred on the concerns of students during the university's management of remote service delivery and learning.

University executive: Our executive team meets with the entire university executive once per month to discuss student issues. We have used this forum to continue conveying students' concerns about how they are being supported during the pandemic and, in particular, the importance of clear and open communication with students and flexible and compassionate approaches to decisions affecting students.

Food services: We are working with the administration and Chartwells to move the dial in terms of affordable food options (including considering directly subsidized menu items) and food security. While the pandemic and staffing changes at Compass Group have caused some challenges, this remains a priority for us to continue pushing.

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Gender diversity audit: We continue to hold the university accountable for implementing recommendations arising from the gender diversity audit conducted in 2018 to make CapU a safer and more inclusive place for trans, non-binary, and Two-Spirit students. We have also continued our series of programming to give students the knowledge and skills that they need to start making a difference themselves.

Student Union Building: Our student union building committee is up and running bringing together student executives, board members, and even some of our former student leaders to provide continuity and leadership for this important project. The committee has already overseen some important advancements in the project:

- We recently made some major progress refreshing our needs for the building (we were able to downsize the building's administrative spaces, and repurpose it for more student-centred spaces due to the quickly changing future of hybrid work).
- We have started assessments of the utility and underground connections necessary beneath the new site of the student union building (where the current Dogwood building), and are then going to be recosting the project to make sure we're confident on the impact that the pandemic has had on construction costs.

Board of Governors

The university board of governors is the senior governing body for the business of Capilano University. Select executives and staff of the Capilano Students' Union attend meetings of the board to stay informed on critical decisions that might affect students. Student members of the board of governors are also invited to serve on the Capilano Students' Union board of directors in an *ex officio* capacity.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: When we last reported to you, we let you know that we had joined forces with the faculty association and the non-academic staff union here at Capilano University to request that the board of governors order an audit of the university's equity, diversity, and inclusion practices – they agreed!

A consultant has been named, board co-liaisons have been appointed, and the students' union expects to be consulted throughout the audit process. We are hopeful that the audit will conclude with an implementation plan that will create a safer and more inclusive university environment for students, faculty, and staff.

Senate & Academic Issues

The university senate is the senior academic governing body of Capilano University, setting curriculum, grading profiles, and other academic matters. The four student senators also serve on the Capilano Students' Union board *ex officio*, and the Capilano Students' Union also sends a permanent guest to speak at the senate table.

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Student Leadership Summit: In order to provide support to student leaders on the university senate and to learn from and implement best practices from other special purpose teaching universities (non-research focused institutions, like CapU), we are organizing a summit later this semester to bring together student organizers and leaders and to build capacity for our student senators to make more of an impact.

Update on Services

Introduction

The Capilano Students' Union provides a number of services to make students' post-secondary experience more fun, affordable, and meaningful. This report summarizes the key services that we deliver to support students.

Major Services

Empower Me

Empower Me combines progressive counselling methods and technology to provide an assistance platform available 24/7 for students anywhere in North America. It connects students with consultants, counsellors, and life coaches to provide them with appropriate, multilingual support in over 180 languages. Plan members are entitled to sessions delivered in person, by telephone, video-counselling, or e-counselling. Support is available for several issues, including:

- Academic issues
- Adjustment to post-secondary life
- Anxiety and depression
- Bullying
- Career development
- Crisis
- Discrimination
- Drugs, alcohol, gaming, smoking

The Empower Me services help fill the void often left by campus resources to offer support after hours, over the weekend, during holidays, and when on-campus services are booked up. In addition, with the costs of the service prepaid, you don't have to pay any additional usage fees!

Health & Dental Plan

Capilano Students' Union continues to facilitate an extended student health & dental plan for our members to ensure everyone has access to affordable medical care. With information on how to claim on [Studentcare's website](#), this service continues to be administered entirely online. Additionally, students can reach out regarding any questions about the plan through email, social media messages, or telephone.

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Emergency Financial Assistance

U-Pass BC Hardship Fund: Acknowledging the exceptional circumstances around the resumption of the U-Pass BC program, students who are experiencing financial hardship can apply for a bursary from the Capilano Students' Union through the U-Pass BC Hardship Fund. Applications remain [open on the Capilano Students' Union website](#).

Internet for Good: Access to technology is more critical than ever for your academic success while learning and accessing support services remotely, which is why the Capilano Students' Union has partnered with Telus to provide access to the Internet for Good program for Capilano University students. This program offers a basic Internet plan to CapU students experiencing financial hardship for \$9.95 per month. To access the program, [apply through the Capilano Students' Union website](#).

Renters Insurance

The Capilano Students' Union has a partnership with Apollo to offer students renters insurance designed with students in mind. As a result, students can insure their personal belongings, protecting them from costs associated with break-ins, fires, floods or more. Learn more about Apollo's low rates [through the Capilano Students' Union website](#).

Device Doctor

Device Doctor offers personal electronics repair and technical support for free or just the cost of parts. Not only is this service available in person in the Library Lounge (Library 195), you can also access the Device Doctor remotely. For remote hardware repair, devices are shipped back and forth without direct contact between students and staff. Services include diagnostics, screen replacements, data recovery, hardware upgrade installation, and general mobile/tablet/computer repair.

Volunteer Program

Volunteering with the CSU is a great way to add to your resume, co-curricular record and get involved on campus. Our volunteer options range from working special events or building your business skills working with the Capilano Business & Professional Studies. To view the complete list of current opportunities, check out our [volunteer registry](#).

Recreation Program

The recreation program has had both in-person and online programming in accordance with the public health guidelines. Some of our programming highlights over the last semester have been Dog Therapy, Grouse Mountain Snow Days, and Zoom Boxing classes! Watch our socials for more opportunities to get active.

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Currently, CSURec is hosting a semester-long **treasure hunt** across campus. Prizes include gift cards, cash prizes, an apple watch, Olivia Rodrigo concert tickets, and two Macbooks. Follow our [Instagram](#) to see the clues, and maybe you'll be our next winner!



Student Spaces

The Capilano Students' Union has many spaces around campus for you to relax or socialize with your friends between classes.

- **Members Centre** (Library 195)
- **Maple Lounge** (Maple 115)
- **Queer Resource Centre** (Birch 313)

○ *To access the Queer Resource Centre, visit our Member Resource Centre, visit our Member*

Services Desk in the Library building to obtain the door code.

- **Women's Resource Centre** (Birch 310)
 - *Self-identifying women can access our resource centre using their student cards.*

If you are interested in booking either the Members Centre or the Maple Lounge at the CSU, submit your request through the [Capilano Students' Union website](#).

Clubs & Student Groups

Are you looking to get involved in campus life, meeting other like-minded students? Learn more about creating a club or joining an existing group on our [website](#). With access to grant funding (including \$200 of core funding), event planning, and administrative support, starting a club is a way to build a community.

Supporting Services

Community Cupboard

Food insecurity is a significant issue for students. The Community Cupboard is a program established to support students with one of their essential needs – food. The program connects students with immediate food assistance either on-campus or online. Please visit our Members Centre (Library 195) to access our physical community

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cupboard. To apply for an electronic grocery gift card (of \$25), visit the [community cupboard page on our website](#).

The CSU is also a referral partner for Quest Food Exchange. Quest partners with local wholesalers, supermarkets and farmers for a typical shopping experience at a reduced rate, far below retail value.

Community Closet

Community Closet has officially launched in the Members Centre (LB195). Students can come to partake in this free clothing exchange to promote additional financial support to students and be a sustainability-focused service. This semester, we will also be expanding this service to include space for small household items!

Student Price Cards

The Student Price Card, also known as SPC Card, is a discount card that offers discounts at hundreds of stores. These discounts include fashion, food, shoes, and travel. Get 10% off your SPC card membership at the CSU Members Desk!

Locker Rentals

Carrying all of your textbooks around campus can be heavy, but our locker rental service is available for students to use. Rentals can be for the full academic year or by the semester. You can rent your locker either in person at the Members Centre or online via the [CSU Book Market](#).

University Appeals

We continue to provide full support for student appeals & advocacy through online delivery. Our staff are available via email, telephone and video meetings to advise students on navigating appeals and the university process. We also have some helpful tips for self-advocacy on our [website](#)!

Community-building

Whistler Trip

The Capilano Students' Union is excited to present a **weekend ski trip to Whistler on March 11–13!** We know that a ski trip to Whistler is something that not everyone has had the privilege of finding accessible, and we hope to give 30 of you the opportunity to explore the ski town and make some new friends this year. As this is a trip with limited spots available, we will be awarding spots on this trip lottery style.

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Ice Cap- Snow Day



On January 28th, the Capilano Students' Union hosted our annual Spring welcome back event, Ice Cap, as a field trip to Grouse Mountain. Students had the choice of either a ski lesson or a snowshoe tour at a reduced rate.

Stay tuned for future CSU events via our newsletter and social media!

Celebrating 50 years at the CSU!

We're celebrating 50 years as the voice of students on the North Shore! Head over to csu.bc.ca/50years to see some of our most special CSU memories – or stay tuned to our social media as we highlight our favourites all year long.

Black Students' Union



The Black Students' Union is hosting meetings every second Tuesday at noon in Fir 209. The schedule for this semester is February 22, March 8, March 22, April 5, and April 18. Email Feven Kidane, Black students liaison, for more information (you can visit our contact page at csu.bc.ca).

All Black students, faculty, and staff are welcome to join! We're also looking for student leaders to continue this important organizing and community-building work during the 2022–2023 year – let us know if that piques your interest!

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