

# Because I Care

## **FORWARD-MOVING**

### *Innovation and Forward-moving*

- Student Capacity Counter
- Business Centre in the Mustang Lounge
- Frost Week Events
- Networking Evenings for Club Execs
- Student Discounts at the Wave

## **BEING SEEN**

### *Increase USC Presence*

- Town Hall
- President's Corner
- Lunch with Logan

## **NOT FORGOTTEN**

### *The little things with a big impact*

- USC Executive Tour
- Continuing Initiatives
- Student Art on Campus
- USC Web Pages

## **GETTING GREEN**

### *Making our campus more green*

- Reducing Paper Use
- More Bike Racks

## **I WILL LOBBY**

### *What I want to fight for*

- Central Recycling System
- Online Textbooks

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## -UPDATED PLATFORM POINTS-

### **I WILL LOBBY**

*What I want to fight for*

- More Gym Classes
- Vegan and Organic Food Options in Residence
- Adding more Eateries to the Western One Card
- Ontario Tuition Grant

### **ADDING ACTION**

*Your voice is heard*

- Symposium of Thought
- Academic Communication
- Soph Website
- Further Communication Improvements
- The Greek Community
- Upstairs Dance Studio
- Ally Western Training
- Interactive Clubs Website
- Path behind Talbot with Lights
- Physical Improvements
- Wave Events

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## FORWARD-MOVING

### **Student Capacity Counter**

As students enter into Weldon or Taylor there will be magnetic gates that will count each person who enters and leaves. Translating this count onto a mobile app would allow students to see how full the libraries are to gauge their likelihood of finding a spot to study. I would like to introduce this in affiliate colleges as well.

### **Business Centre in the Mustang Lounge**

Adding computers in the Mustang Lounge similar to those on the first floor of Weldon would allow students to check their emails and WebCT in the UCC if they were without their laptop for the day. Furthermore, it would create another place for students to print on campus.

### **Frost Week Events**

As O-Week is for first years, the USC introduced Purple Week, as a week full of concerts and events following O-Week for upper year students. Similar to Purple Week, I want to introduce events throughout Frost Week for upper years, as there are currently only Frost Week events planned in Residence. I want to have events, such as concerts and a beer garden to bring upper year students to campus.

### **Networking Evenings for Club Execs**

Networking events for club executives would allow club execs to collaborate and work together when organizing events for their respective clubs throughout the year.

### **Student Discounts at the Wave**

Student discounts at the Wave create a sense of community within faculties and Western as a whole. Each day of the week we would offer a discount to different faculties and programs.

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## BEING SEEN

### **Town Hall**

USC meetings are often intimidating and un-interesting to many students. Having town hall meetings would provide students with a forum to voice their opinions, ideas and concerns. This would allow for increased communication between students and the USC, ensuring that all students' voices and visions are heard.

### **President's Corner**

On the USC Website I promise to have a presidential blog that will be updated weekly, keeping students informed on what is happening that upcoming week and what the Board of Executives worked on the week prior. This would provide another place for students to get informed about the USC, as well as the events and services it has to offer. Increasing communication and transparency is vital for enhancing the student experience at Western.

### **Lunch with Logan**

Students are much more likely to run into the USC president if once a week they spend time sitting at a table in the spoke, as opposed to all the way up on the third floor of the UCC tucked away in an office. On top of office hours, I want to host a weekly lunch, "Lunch with Logan", where students can join me passing by for lunch or just to chat. This would allow more students to have the opportunity to interact with the USC president in a less formal setting, where they can share ideas, ask questions or just chat about life.

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## NOT FORGOTTEN

### **USC Executive Tour**

To best ensure that there is effective communication between the executive and constituency councils, the executives should visit council meetings, similar to Pat Searle's UA tour. This would allow constituency councils to have a greater understanding of each portfolio and would allow for members to ask questions. This would also increase communication between council members and students within their faculty.

### **Continuing Initiatives**

As the turn over for the USC executive is only one year it is difficult for an exec to fulfill large-scale ideas in such a short period of time. I want to continue pursuing initiatives that the current exec have started, such as Marissa Joffre's peer support phone line.

### **Student Art on Campus**

With such an incredible visual arts program at our school, I would love to showcase our students' hard work. I will display art from our students in the Mustang lounge.

### **USC Web Pages**

Many students have difficulty finding information about academic procedures, such as how to appeal a grade, how to get accommodation to write a make-up exam or write an exam in a different setting. Academic information provided on a website or on our USC web page would provide students with an easy way of finding the academic information that they need. This increased communication would show that the USC cares about the academic performance of all students at Western and supports their needs.

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## GETTING GREEN

### **Reducing Paper Use**

I want to move towards a paperless USC office, in which applications and documents will be submitted online in electronic form instead of paper. As EnviroWestern states “Small steps, big impact”, I want to take steps to making the USC office more sustainable and environmentally conscious.

### **More Bike Racks**

To promote healthy living and a greener campus I want to put in more bike racks in front of high traffic buildings to encourage and facilitate more students biking to campus.

## I WILL LOBBY

### **Central Recycling System**

I want to lobby for recycling to have the same status as garbage on campus. I want to put pressure on the University to introduce recycling bins outside on campus next to garbage bins, and require that recycling be taken from res rooms as garbage is.

### **Online Textbooks**

I would like to lobby for the University to introduce more online readings and textbooks. This would reduce the textbook fees that students need to pay as the online versions are cheaper than printed versions.

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## **-UPDATED PLATFORM POINTS-**

### **LOBBY POINTS**

#### **More Gym Classes**

Increasing the amount of classes offered at the gym, as well as offering said classes at more convenient times throughout the day will promote a healthy lifestyle, as well as increase job opportunities for student instructors. Also, an email account will be set up where students can write in with suggestions for new classes they would like to see run. Students will also be informed when any major scheduling changes are made, such as the removal of a class (like Power Hour).

#### **Vegan and Organic Food Options in Residence**

As students living in residence rely on Housing and Ancillary Services to provide the majority of their meals (especially in traditional-style residences), I would like to lobby for more vegan and organic food options.

#### **Adding more Eateries to the Western One Card**

I would like to allow students to venture off-campus to enjoy the fine restaurants the City of London has to offer. By adding local restaurants to the list of eateries payable with your Western One Cards, increasing your choice of mealtime options!

#### **Ontario Tuition Grant**

I will further advocate to expand the current Ontario Tuition Grant initiative to include 5th year, part-time and secondary entry students.

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## ADDING ACTION

### **Symposium of Thought**

I would like to facilitate an interactive and informal group for students in all years and faculties to be able to gather and share academic thoughts with no professor involvement. This forum will enable students to converse, discuss and debate their ideas.

### **Academic Communication**

A big portion of my initial platform was focused on increasing communication to students. To further this, I would like to add several links to the USC website to aid students in finding the academic forms and resources they need. First, there will be a scholarship link, where the scholarship database will be available via the financial aid website. Second, forms for academic accommodations for exams and assignments will also be posted, so students can read the policy and fill out forms before meeting with academic counseling to decrease wait-times. Lastly, a new initiative I would like to implement is a tutoring forum. Listed by program and course, students will be able to click on their classes and view a list of available tutors along with their contact information. Students can also use this forum to sign up to be a tutor, to promote inter-student working partnerships.

### **Soph Website**

As has been made apparent recently, communication between the USC and the Sophing community needs to both improve and increase. A webpage tailored to Sophs would be available on the USC website, which would include important dates and deadlines, documents such as appeal forms and applications, as well as access to the information communicated during Soph training. There would also be a section for frosh FAQs, as well as any contact information they may need (i.e. academic counseling, student health services, career counseling, etc...) so Sophs are better equipped to support their Frosh.

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## **Further Communication Improvements**

The Mustang Calendar would be a mass schedule of all major events happening on and off-campus, for or hosted by Western students. Programming such as culture shows, varsity games, Frosh and Frost week events, guest speakers, as well as any club events will be posted so all students can be in the know. This would prevent you from missing events that you would want to go to, that otherwise you might miss simply because you didn't know it was happening. What better way to show our Purple Pride than to all show up in the masses to every varsity game and support our hardworking athletes. Furthermore, budget transparency was a common concern raised by students, so I will ensure that the budget is readily accessible to students via the USC webpage.

## **The Greek Community**

Along with rushing and any other Greek events such as philanthropy nights or the Greek Ball being included in the Mustang Calendar, I would like to formally recognize the Greek Community for all the work they do on and off-campus. To show our support, I would like to establish recognition in the form of a plaque, which would be awarded annually to the sorority or fraternity who raises the most amount for charity per member.

## **Upstairs Dance Studio**

As anyone can attest to having walked through the UCC at night, available dance space for our Western dance groups is a pressing issue. To help improve some of the space restrictions, I want to put mirrors in the closed room upstairs in the mustang lounge to turn it into a dance studio. Unlike the rooms on the main floor, this room would be totally enclosed, so competing music would be less of an issue.

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## **Ally Western Training**

I would like to make it easier for any student to sign up for Ally training via the USC website. Right now, Ally training is required for some student groups such as Sophs. I would like to promote Ally training to all Western students as well as Western faculty and staff in hopes of one day, having everyone Ally trained. Sign-ups would be readily available online, with sessions running often. As well, an online forum created through the USC webpage would allow Allies to communicate, network and connect with each other in a place conducive to safety and respect. The coordinator of Ally Western would also be able to mass message all Ally members, in regards to relevant events.

## **Interactive Clubs Website**

I want to update the USC Clubs Website to include full descriptions, photos and contact information of executive members for each club. The standing committee has already passed a motion in regards to this update, so it is ready to be implemented. On top of this, I would like to make the site interactive, where students can browse the map of tables online during clubs week, click on that table, and see the full description of the club as mentioned above. Furthermore, they will be able to add that club directly to their cart through this map, increasing the efficiency of clubs week.

## **Path behind Talbot with Lights**

A path behind Talbot with lights would increase accessibility for students currently unable to utilize this shortcut, as well as increase campus safety at night for ALL students. I would be negotiating funding for this project with the University, as well as applying to the CARE (Campus Accessibility Review and Enhancement) fund to implement this initiative.

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## **Physical Improvements**

I would like to put benches at the Richmond gates (bus stop) as well as add more picnic benches on the grass in front of concrete beach. As for the UCC, I would like to add microwaves to the newly renovated atrium area and increase study space in the atrium and Mustang Lounge during exams by keeping study tables set up for the ENTIRE exam period. During exam periods, I would also like to make it easier for students to book out rooms to study in, by having a readily available link to reservations on the USC webpage.

## **Wave Events**

I would like to vary the types of events being hosted at The Wave. Concerts are fantastic, however, students would like to see the space being used for more guest speakers and larger-scale club events. Faculties could run their events congruent with my previous platform point regarding faculty-specific discount days, reducing costs to the students while increasing business at The Wave.