



University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario

LONG-TERM PLAN

EFFECTIVE: March 20, 2012

SUPERSEDES: September 30, 2009

AUTHORITY: Council

RATIFIED BY: Executive Council

**RELATED
DOCUMENTS:**

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BACKGROUND

As per 6.05 of By-Law #1, “The Council shall enact a Long-Term Plan to stand as a reference document for the Corporation when strategic decisions need to be made and to provide strategic direction for all facets of the Corporation. The Executive Council shall ensure that the Corporation maintains a Long-Term Plan, and the Executive shall implement the Long-Term Plan and ensure it reflects the current status of the Corporation.”

The following plan shall be the Long-Term Plan of the Corporation, and replaces all previous plans.

1.00 MISSION OF THE USC

1.01 “To enhance the educational experience and quality of life for all undergraduates at the University of Western Ontario.”

2.00 ENDURING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

2.01 We are students and as such:

- (1) **We are a voice.** We are the legitimate advocate for students wherever their interest lay.
- (2) **We are grounded in our mission.** We believe our Mission worthy of an important place within the academy at Western. To be truly legitimate every program, event and service must meaningfully advance the Mission.
- (3) **We are a student-supportive organization.** We represent a diverse community for which we must provide leadership, skill-development, and personal growth opportunities in ways that reach the most students possible using tools that maximize accessibility to those opportunities.
- (4) **We are stewards of democracy.** We believe that students have the right to govern themselves through an active, accountable, collaborative and principled democratic process.
- (5) **We seek constructive change.** We believe that we must continually challenge our assumptions and have the courage to implement new ideas, in spite of the potential for failure.



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- (6) **We are socially responsible.** We believe we must be a socially responsible member of society, and shall take into account the ethical, social, and environmental impacts of all decisions wherever possible, no matter how large or small.

3.00 VISION AND GOALS

3.01 Talking and sharing with students, and listening and learning from students

- (1) We will make the information students need available in a manner that is both easy to find and easy to understand.
- (2) We will publish an annual report summarizing the activities, achievements and summarize the financial performance of the USC.
- (3) We will develop mechanisms to ensure that students can easily provide feedback so that they may freely comment upon the actions of the USC.
- (4) We will create opportunities that allow more students at large to become involved with the decisions and activities of the organization.
- (5) We will survey student opinion annually on a wide range of topics to help determine whether the USC is adequately and effectively meeting student expectations.

3.02 Open and effective student government

- (1) We will ensure that there is a speech every September in which the President and Executive propose their legislative and programmatic agenda for the coming year, and a "State of the USC" in March in which the President and Executive hold a public accountability session where they report on their progress and take questions from students.
- (2) We will ensure that each member of the Executive delivers a quarterly update to Council describing past, current and future actions.
- (3) We will develop mechanisms that will make it easier for students to understand how their government works, how to access their elected officials, how to access the services their government provides and how to become actively involved with their government if they wish.
- (4) We will ensure that, when changes to events, programs and services are contemplated or implemented, that the reasons(s) for the change will be published.
- (5) We will create annual tactical plans rooted in the strategic plan, and bring plans forward to Council and students for feedback.



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- (6) We will develop an archive of our legislative history, utilizing an appropriate records management system.

3.03 Responsible student advocacy that delivers

- (1) We will develop processes that allow us to identify and anticipate issues before they reach a critical point requiring hasty, reactive responses.
- (2) We will develop a policy creation methodology that includes a student consultative component, and provide it with the necessary resources, to ensure that issues are thoroughly researched before policy is drafted and that result in policies that are both creative and practical.
- (3) We will create mechanisms that help us respond to the issues faced by individual students.
- (4) We will develop the capacity to connect students to the information and resources they require to succeed as students and citizens.
- (5) We will develop, maintain and publish a Policy Book that will act as the central record of all policies approved by the USC.

3.04 Programming and resources that reflect students' needs and priorities

- (1) We will create mechanisms that encourage students to bring forward new and innovative ideas, including ideas for events.
- (2) We will develop mechanisms to better support the generation and implementation of student-generated ideas and concepts.
- (3) We will organize a balance of events, programmes and services supportive of students' educational, cultural, personal and entertainment needs.
- (4) We will regularly review all events, programmes and services to ensure they continue to be relevant to students.
- (5) We will emphasize quality service at an affordable price, and will therefore examine any and all mechanisms which can deliver that result.
- (6) We will ensure that social responsibility is a key element helping us make decisions related to our activities.
- (7) We will develop a framework for academic support that provides students more of the tools and resources they need to achieve scholarly success.



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- (8) We will provide programming and resources that are barrier-free and that reflect the mosaic of cultures and identities that make up our campus community, including but not limited to culture, race, gender and sexual orientation.
- (9) We will respond to the University's growing emphasis on internationalization by ensuring we provide adequate support resources and programming for international students on campus.

3.05 Empower our people to succeed

- (1) We will improve the transition of our executive by introducing a program for newly elected executives to shadow their predecessors before the formal transition begins in May, and will ensure transition includes the time necessary to provide the incoming executive with the skills and professional development they need to have a successful year.
- (2) We will hire Commissioners and Coordinators through a formal HR process and support them with enhanced training and feedback throughout their tenure.
- (3) We will develop an enhanced transition programme for Councillors that gives them the knowledge and tools necessary to better serve their constituents.
- (4) We will provide the resources necessary for our staff and management to participate in professional development opportunities that will promote personal and professional growth with a focus on continually improving service to our community.
- (5) We will promote ambassadorship and customer service among staff, management and volunteers to ensure students get excellent service and are left with a positive impression of the USC.
- (6) We will conduct staff and volunteer surveys so we better understand their experience with the USC and so that we can relentlessly improve that experience
- (7) We will do more to celebrate our people and the contribution they make to the USC and Western.