

# FANSHAWE STUDENT UNION **PRESIDENT'S**

# REPORT



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fanshawe community,

It is my pleasure to share with you the President's Report 2022-2023. As the Fanshawe Student Union President for the academic year 2022-2023, I am proud to say that we have achieved a lot despite the difficulties we encountered coming out of the pandemic.

We have continued to provide exceptional services to our students. We were also able to host successful events that brought our student community together. As my term in the office as the Fanshawe Student Union President for the academic year 2022-2023 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this year possible.

Firstly, I want to extend my appreciation to the FSU staff, student leaders and volunteers who have made this year a great success. Your hard work and passion have been truly inspiring, and I am proud to have worked alongside such a talented and dedicated team.

Secondly, I want to thank the amazing staff at Fanshawe College who have worked tirelessly to ensure that students have had access to the best possible education and support. Your dedication and commitment to the students of Fanshawe have not gone unnoticed.

Last but not least, I want to thank the students of Fanshawe College for being the driving force behind everything we do. Your feedback, concerns and suggestions, have been invaluable to our work, and we are grateful for your continued trust and support.

As we move forward, I am confident that our community will continue to come together to create positive change and ensure that every student has access to the resources and support they need to succeed.

Thank you again to everyone who has played a part in making this year a success, and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve together in the future.

Sincerely,

Ismail Aravai,  
FSU President 2022-2023



I want to thank the students of Fanshawe for being the driving force behind everything we do

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# Student Leader Programs

## Class Representative Program

**279**

Class Representatives

**600+**

Co-Curricular Hours



## Red Squad Volunteers

**65**

Volunteers

**325+**

Co-Curricular Hours



## Clubs

**30**

Registered Clubs

**3**

Clubs Day



# Initiatives

Key Pillars: Inclusion and Diversity, Mental Health and Fun

## Donut Cheat



**640** donuts distributed  
**1200** students served over 3 campuses

## Finance 101



**60+** students helped to prepare for a job  
**50+** students given financial advise

## Awareness Campaigns



- CPR- A-Thon
- Iftaar Event
- Money Talks
- Money Couch
- Money Chat
- Self Care Awareness
- Lunar New Year
- Pride Parade
- Pink Shirt Day
- Ladies Night

# Themes

As the Fanshawe Student Union Executive Team, we have spent the past year engaging with various stakeholders, including our members, to better understand the challenges and issues facing Fanshawe College students. Through this engagement, we have identified several key themes that are impacting students and their ability to succeed.

Our engagement efforts have included feedback sessions, group discussions, and one-on-one conversations with students, staff and faculty. We have also worked closely with student leaders across the province to better understand the needs and priorities of different student populations.

The themes that have emerged from our engagement efforts are diverse and complex, and they reflect the many different experiences and perspectives of our student body.

As the FSU Executive Team, we are committed to working with the College administration, student groups, and other stakeholders to address these issues together and create a more supportive and inclusive College environment for all students.

## Central Hub

One of the key themes that emerged this academic year at Fanshawe College is the need for better student support. Students have expressed frustration with having to navigate multiple departments and offices in order to access the resources and assistance they need.

To address this issue, the College has established a central hub where students can go to get the help they need. This hub is staffed by knowledgeable and friendly student ambassadors who assist students but also redirect them in the right direction. By centralizing these services, students can get the support they need more quickly and easily. We highly encourage this initiative. As we transition to a new ERP system, we should also consider linking the systems across departments. This way, if a student moves from one department to another, the CSR will already have the necessary information on their needs through the computer.

# Themes

## Financial Challenges

One of the most significant challenges that Fanshawe College students have faced during the academic year of 2022-2023 is financial hardship. The rising cost of living has made it difficult for many students to make ends meet, and they are struggling to afford basic necessities such as food and housing.

According to Statistics Canada, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 6.8% on an annual average basis in 2022, following gains of 3.4% in 2021 and 0.7% in 2020. This significant increase in the cost of living has had a direct impact on the financial situation of many Fanshawe College students.

As a result, many students have had to turn to the College's food bank to ensure that they have enough to eat. This has highlighted the fact that many students budgeted less for food.

To address this challenge, FSU and Fanshawe College will have to take steps to help students manage their finances better. This includes providing financial literacy resources and workshops, as well as offering support and guidance on budgeting, saving, and managing debt.

Another solution to this problem is the implementation of a Cohort fee model, which would allow students to budget ahead of time for their tuition fees and other educational expenses. This model would help students plan for their financial obligations and reduce financial stress.

We appreciate all that the college staff does for the students and are committed to working together to improve the student experience. By collaborating with the college administration, student groups, and other stakeholders, we can create a more supportive and inclusive environment for all students at Fanshawe College.

# Themes

## London South Campus

The Dean, Associate dean, faculty and staff are excellent at supporting the London South campus. FSU has been able to highly engage with the students on all the campuses this year. The London South Campus is comprised of 99% international programs, and as a result, is predominantly attended by international students. Throughout the year the students from London South have voiced the feeling of segregation. As the London South Campus is primarily comprised of international programs, students feel that they are being segregated from domestic students.

Having conversations throughout the year about this with the folks in the college, it was not an intention of the college to separate international and domestic but several other reasons e.g. to meet the off-campus housing needs and potential nearby part-time employment opportunities.

We would strongly recommend the College work to create a more diverse student population at the London South Campus so that students can benefit from a range of perspectives and experiences. By taking these steps, the College can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all students attending the London South Campus.

# Themes

## Building Capacity

One of the major themes that have emerged during the academic year of 2022-2023 is the issue of being timely access to the staff. This issue has been affecting students in several ways, and there are several areas where resources could be streamlined and build capacity.

Some of the notable mentions by the student but not limited to below two areas.

- As most of the students live off campus, there is a need for more support and awareness in that area. We strongly recommend someone to solely focus on Advising and someone to do the awareness and education, hopefully making an off-campus Housing department. One solution to this could be to leverage student staff ambassadors who can do the awareness part. This conversation has already started and an Off-Campus Housing committee has been formed where the FSU and the College would work together to improve the student experience.
- As we grew to 50% international students, they come with various specific needs, sometimes their needs are only able to be addressed by the International department, but students have to wait for up to a month to meet with the International Student Advisor, this delay in support can be detrimental to the academic progress of international students. Therefore, it is important to dedicate more staff members to meet the needs of international students in a timely manner.