

# APUS ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



**ASSOCIATION OF PART-TIME  
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**  
LOCAL 97 OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS



## APUS Year In Review

The Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students at the University of Toronto (APUS) represents part-time students across all three campuses of the University of Toronto. APUS was founded in 1968 by part-time students who wanted to make part-time study an integral part of the University. Today, we continue to ensure that the rights of all part-time students are respected and represent the voices of part-time undergraduate students across the University and to all levels of government. We strive to ensure that the needs of part-time undergraduate students are met by building a more inclusive educational and campus life experience through services, programming, events, and advocacy. We are fundamentally committed to accessible post-secondary education for all students.

This annual report provides an overview of APUS' services, advocacy, programming and events during the 2019-2020 year. This year was marked by the introduction of the Student Choice Initiative which threatened access to student services, detrimental cuts to OSAP that further marginalize students, and a very real student mental health crisis on campus. This year was also marked by a successful legal challenge against the Ontario government in which the Student Choice was deemed unlawful, frequent and unrelenting speeches by our President at meetings of Governing Council to call on the administration to take the student mental health crisis seriously, and the introduction of many wonderful programming series at APUS to support the needs of our members in the face of cuts to postsecondary education. We increased mental health coverage on our APUS Health & Dental Plan, began an Applying to Grad School Workshop series for part-time and mature students, introduced the APUS Indigenous Hand Drumming Circle, gave out hundreds of care packages to students during midterms and exams, and so much more. As the year comes to a close, we are proud of the work we have done and we are so grateful to continue to have the privilege to advocate for part-time students.



*(L-R) Jamie Kearns President, Richie Pyne VP Equity, Susan Froom VP Internal, Jennifer Coggon VP Events and Outreach, .*

## APUS Services

### APUS Health and Dental Plan

APUS continues to offer affordable health, dental and travel insurance coverage to our members through GreenShield Canada. Through our membership in the Canadian Federation of Students and the National Student Health Network, we also participate in various discount networks. This year, we were very pleased to introduce increased benefits to our 2019-2020 Health and Dental Plan. We improved our dental coverage co-pay and maximum, and made significant improvements to our mental health coverage. We are proud to now cover up to \$125 per visit for up to 20 visits under Psychology & Counselling benefit.

### APUS Bursary Program

Recognizing that part-time students face barriers to accessing funding from governmental and institutional programs, APUS bursaries are available to part-time undergraduate students on all three campuses of the University of Toronto on the basis of financial need each semester. Following a successful restructuring of our APUS Bursary Program last year, we continue to offer the APUS General Bursary, APUS Access Bursary, APUS Indigenous Student Bursary, APUS Black Student Bursary, APUS Two-Spirit, Queer

### APUS Study Space and Lounge

The APUS Sid Smith Office is a space for our members a space to study, hang out, enjoy free coffee and tea, and access our 5 cent printing service. This year, we also continued to host our regular mental health programming series, Take a Break: Cupcakes and Chill, on Wednesday afternoons.

### APUS Prayer Space

This fall, we were excited to open a prayer space for students in our Sid Smith office. The drop-in, single-person, semi-private prayer space is open to students at the back of the office during our regular hours.



## Lunch & Learn Workshops

We offered a series of career services workshops this year where students can come together in an informal setting and promote their professional and career development. Our Lunch & Learn: Career Services workshops included resume and cover letter writing, social media, employment rights, LinkedIn, networking and interview tips and tricks.

## Academic Advocacy and Support

APUS also offers academic advocacy and support in the form of one-on-one individual support for students who are experiencing academic issues. We also hosted a library research session, peer feedback session and study hubs during exam periods.

## Academic Support Workshop Series: Applying to Grad School Series

Over the summer and early fall, leading up to deadlines for grad school applications, we organized our first ever Applying to Grad School Series in partnership with Students for Barrier-Free Access specifically for part-time and mature students. This Academic Support Workshop Series included sessions on writing a CV, writing a personal statement, peer feedback sessions, and a panel with current graduate students. We supported many students with their grad school applications and

**PRESENTED BY APUS & SBA**

**SUMMER 2019**

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT WORKSHOP SERIES**

**APPLYING TO GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

**Writing an Effective Curriculum Vitae (CV)**  
June 6, 2019

**Writing an Effective Personal Statement**  
July 11, 2019

**Peer Feedback: CV & Personal Statement**  
August 14, 2019

**4:00 - 6:00 P.M.**  
563 Spadina Crescent  
Suite 236/ APUS Boardroom  
Accessible Entrance  
via Bancroft Ave

For more information and access needs contact  
[services@apus.ca](mailto:services@apus.ca) or 416-978-0831  
<https://apus.ca/services/>

**SBA**  
STUDENTS FOR BARRIER-FREE ACCESS

**APUS**

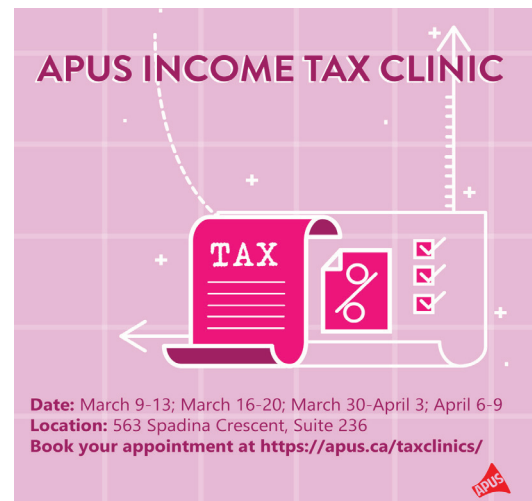


## APUS Services' Survey

We conducted our annual APUS Services' Survey in February and March. We surveyed our membership for feedback on all of our existing services and improvements to these services. We use this feedback to implement improvements to our services and create new ones.

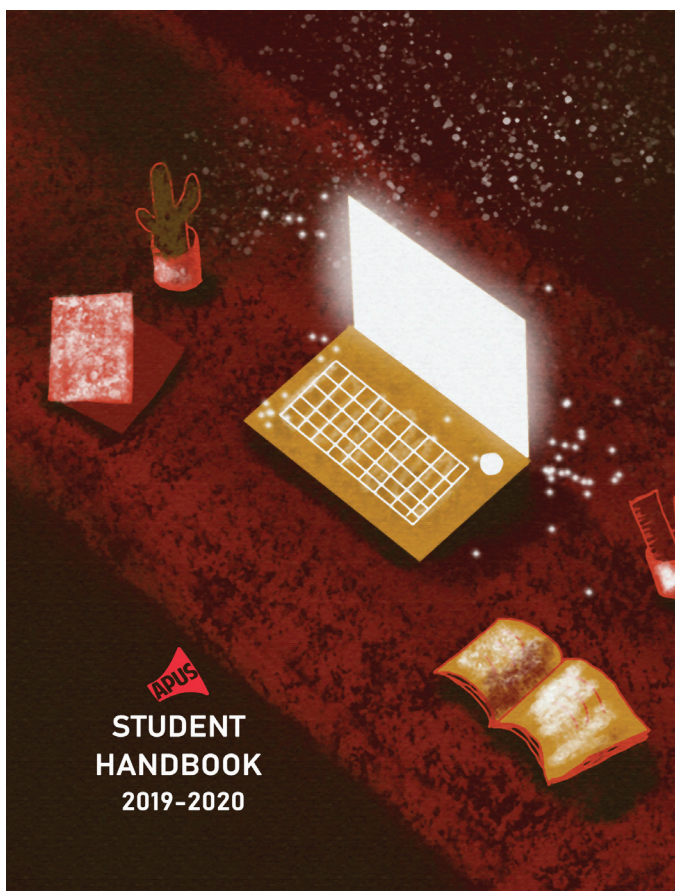
## APUS Tax Clinics

APUS offers a free tax clinic on the St. George campus to help our members file their 2019 tax returns. In partnership with the Canada Revenue Agency's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, our tax clinic is a popular free service for students and great experience for our student volunteers. Membership in the Canadian Federation of Students also provides APUS members with free online tax filing via Ufile.ca.



## APUS Handbook

This year, we were really excited to offer students a handbook for the first time in a long time! Our APUS handbook included a 12-month calendar, information about APUS services, programming and advocacy, our membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, and information about U of T services.



## APUS Programming & Events

APUS offers a series of programming and events throughout the year to support part-time students and build community on campus.

### Plant Pot Painting Parties

We hosted a Plant Pot Painting Party in partnership with LGBTQOUT during Pride month. We provided plant pots and paints and students brought their creativity! The event was so successful we hosted it again in September during Queer Orientation.

### Annual Caribana Patio Lime

Every year, we collaborate with student groups on campus to host Caribana Patio Lime in August. This year, the event took place outside Sid Smith in Wilcox Commons. We had music, food from Tasty's, and bubble blowing!



### September Orientation Outreach

Every September, we attend many Orientation events across campus to meet our members and let them know we are here to support them! This year, we attended Student Life's Mature and Transfer Student Orientation, Academic Bridging Orientation, Transitional Year Programme Orientation, UTSU's Street Festival, and First Nations House Orientation among others.



### APUS Part-Time and Mature Student Orientation

Our annual full-day Part-Time and Mature Student Orientation took place at the end of September at the Multi-Faith Centre. Our Orientation included presentations on getting involved, navigating the university, financial planning, academic success and career planning. We also met other part-time and mature students and had a good lunch!

## **Accessible Tour of Robarts Library and Self-Advocacy Workshop for Disabled Students**

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We love working in partnership with Students for Barrier-Free Access (SBA)! In the fall, we partnered with SBA to co-host an Accessible Tour of Robarts Library and their Self-Advocacy Workshop for Disabled Students. Part-time and disabled were able to learn about their rights and resources available on campus. We learned a lot too!

## **Safer Communities, Safer Campus Workshop Series**

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This year, we partnered with the Dandelion Initiative to provide a series of workshops on consent culture and sexual violence prevention. Our workshops included Bystander Intervention Techniques, Consent: What We Were Never Taught, Anti-Harassment Training and Community Accountability. These workshops were very well-received and we intend to host them again next year!

## **WCSA Wedensdays Pancake Breakfast**

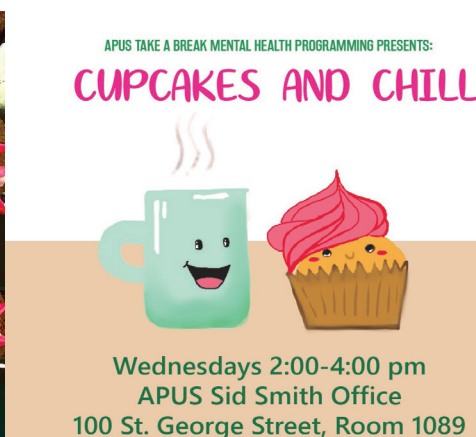
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Our wonderful Vice-President Events and Outreach did weekly outreach to part-time and mature students at Woodsworth every Wednesday morning this year. She joined the Woodsworth College Student Association for their pancake breakfast, chatted with students, and gave out handbooks, highlighters and more!

## **Cupcakes and Chill Wednesdays**

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Everyone's favourite weekly mental health programming, Cupcakes and Chill, runs every Wednesday from 2-4pm in our Sid Smith office. We provide cupcakes and treats everyone comes together to take a break and do a puzzle together. This year we even designed our own custom puzzle of the APUS office!





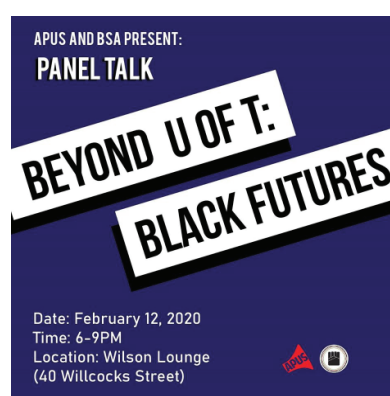
## Exam Jams, Care Packages & Puppy Yoga

During midterms and exam periods, we give out hundreds of care packages to students! Our care packages include snacks, treats, mental health resources and study materials. We took part in ASSU's Exam Jam at Sid Smith for students in the Faculty of Arts & Science, and UTM's Exam Jam for students at UTM. We also hosted our own Part-Time and Proud pop-ups in New College and Sid Smith to give out care packages throughout the year. In December, we also hosted puppy yoga which was very popular (and cute)!

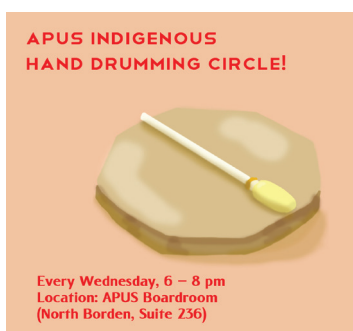


## Black History Month Programming in partnership with the BSA

This year for Black History Month, we co-hosted three events with the Black Students Association (BSA). To welcome in Black History Month, we held Black Voices 2020: The Next Generation, with talks from students and networking. We also hosted Beyond U of T: Black Futures, a panel talk from U of T alumni. We ended the month with a documentary screening of Ninth Floor, which spotlights Caribbean students in the 1960s at Sir George Williams University. This screening tells the story of a forgotten history of student organizing in Canada.



## Indigenous Hand Drumming Circle



We are very happy to recently have launched APUS Indigenous Hand Drumming Circle! Hosted every Wednesday evening in the APUS office, the Indigenous Hand Drumming Circle offers an additional way for students to support their mental health and enjoy some snacks too.

APUS works with other student groups, community members and allies to advocate for accessible and quality post-secondary education for part-time students. We advocate for our members at many governing bodies and committees of the University of Toronto, provincially and federally through the Canadian Federation of Students, and within our communities.

### **Governing Council and Campus-Wide Advocacy on the Student Mental Health Crisis**

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This year, we focused much of our advocacy efforts on the student mental health crisis. Our President spoke regularly at Governing Council meetings, as well as meetings of its Boards, such as University Affairs Board and Academic Board. We advocate for these governing bodies to consider the needs and experiences of part-time students and marginalized students on campus. We continued to speak out strongly against the University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy (UMLAP) as it creates a barrier for students seeking mental health support. We continued to call attention to the need to take student mental health seriously at meeting after meeting, and were successful in starting many conversations at these Boards about the UMLAP and student mental health in general. The APUS Executive also meets regularly with the Office of the Vice-Provost Students to bring forward concerns from our membership, including better mental health support, support for Indigenous students and policies that affect our members. This advocacy work is ongoing and we will continue to speak up about how we can work together as a university community to repeal UMLAP in its entirety and work towards policies that actually support students.

### **University of Toronto Committees**

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APUS has seats on many University of Toronto committees and governing bodies. Members of the APUS Executive Committee attend these meetings, speak on behalf of part-time students, and report back to and consult with our members through our Assembly and Board meetings. These committees include the Council on Student Services, the Council of Athletics and Recreation, the Hart House Board of Stewards, the Library Student Advisory Committee, the Community Liaison Committee, the Student Initiative Fund, and more. For a full list of the Committees on which the APUS Executive has represented our members, please see the Executive Reports to the Board.

## Canadian Federation of Students

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APUS advocates on behalf of part-time students at the provincial and federal government levels through our membership in the Canadian Federation of Students and Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario. Our President is your representative to the Canadian Federation of Students and sits on the CFS Ontario Executive Committee. This past year, members of the APUS Executive Committee attended CFS National General Meetings and the CFS Ontario General Meeting. We are very active at these meetings and enjoy the opportunity to meet with other part-time student unions from across the province and the country! Our President also had the opportunity to lobby Federal MPs at Federal Lobby Week and our Vice-President Events and Outreach similarly lobbied provincial MPPs at Ontario Lobby Week. Our President also attended gatherings of the National Circle of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Students. In November, we were extremely proud to be members of the Canadian Federation of Students following our successful legal challenge against the Student Choice Initiative in which it was deemed unlawful!





## Community Advocacy and Solidarity

APUS works in solidarity with members of the student community, campus community and surrounding communities. We attended the Climate Strike on September 29 along with many other students, youth and community members. We also co-hosted a U of T Community Town Hall with student groups and labour unions on campus. Our VP Equity spoke on the panel about defending post-secondary education and the effects of the recent cuts on part-time students. We also attended many rallies in support of Indigenous sovereignty and to support the calls to action from Wet'suwet'en land defenders. APUS also makes a number of donations to groups on campus who are doing important work that supports the needs of our members. This past year, we made donations to Regenesi's Youth Food Centre, a student-led conference on mental health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health called Pushing the Paradigm, and to Noesis, an Undergraduate Journal of Philosophy. APUS also releases statements on behalf of our membership, for example, on the National Day of Action Against Violence Against Women and on student mental health. You can find the full list of statements on our website.



**U of T Community Town Hall**

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**  
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Mechanical Engineering Bldg, Rm 252  
5 Kings College Road

**DEFENDING  
POST-SECONDARY  
EDUCATION**

Come out to hear speakers from students, staff and faculty to talk about cuts to OSAP, student organizations and attacks on post-secondary workers. Join us to mobilize for a #FordFightBack

facebook  Live streaming of the Town Hall will be available at:  
[www.facebook.com/CUPE3902](https://www.facebook.com/CUPE3902)

**Everyone welcome!**  
Food will be provided!





APUS is a membership-driven and student-led organization. A dedicated team of student representatives and staff ensure that APUS is able to advocate for our members at institutional and governmental levels, offer services such as our health and dental plan, 5 cent printing and bursaries, provide weekly mental health programming, and offer our many workshop series. We truly believe APUS is the best space on campus, and we want all part-time students to help us build our community.

## **Governance and Finances**

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APUS' governance structure includes our General Meetings, Board of Directors, Executive Committee. Each body meets regularly to review APUS' finances, policies, services, and programming and to discuss issues on campus that are affecting part-time students. All part-time students are encouraged to get involved in APUS by becoming attending a general meeting! We now hold General Meetings every semester to ensure all part-time students are able to get involved and take part in decision-making. The APUS budget is presented to the Board of Directors and the General Meetings a minimum of three times a year. Our audited financial statements are also presented to the Board of Directors and the Annual General Meeting on an annual basis and are available on our website.

## **The APUS Team**

The 2019-2020 APUS team is proud to support the day-to-day needs of our members.

### **Executive Committee**

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Jaime Kearns, President  
Susan Froom, VP Internal  
Jennifer Coggon, VP Events and Outreach  
Richie Pyne, VP Equity

### **Staff**

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Caitlin Campisi, Executive Director  
Siva Sivarajah, Member Services Coordinator  
Brie Berry, Academic Advocacy Coordinator  
Najia Fatima & Habiba Hisham, Events and Outreach Coordinator  
Kenga Nadarajah, Finance Coordinator  
Shevan Bastian, Katerini Hatziantonis, Christa Francis, Linda Fouad, Information Clerks