

Vice President Internal - Report to APUS General Meeting November 12, 2021

Duties performed since Summer General Meeting, August 12, 2021

Canadian Federation of Students

Together with my fellow executives, I represented APUS members at the CFS Ontario Annual General Meeting held virtually on Zoom from August 18-20. I was the Chair of the CFS Ontario Part-time Caucus until my term ended on September 17. In that capacity, I attended two CFS Ontario Executive Committee meetings, as well as, together with the Circle of First Nations, Inuit and Metis Students Representative, Jaime Kearns, I assisted with organizational issues at a sister union in difficulty.

I am currently the Chair of the CFS National Part-Time and Mature Constituency Group. Together with my fellow executives, I will be representing APUS members at the CFS National General Meeting from November 16 to 18 (held virtually on Zoom) and am currently in preparation for that meeting. APUS has submitted two motions to the meeting - a motion calling for action to bring about better government supports for students with disabilities and a procedural bylaws amendment

University of Toronto/Community Involvement

I represent APUS members on the Community Liaison Committee, which consists of representatives from the city government, university, neighborhood associations and the three St. George Student unions: APUS (part time), UTSU (full time), GSU (grads). The CLC deals with building project proposals and municipal decisions affecting students. Noteworthy items currently being considered include building more student family housing, child-care space, rooming house regulations, a proposed city mandate to build affordable rental housing, bike lanes on College Street, and a new accessible Museum subway entrance among many others. It is exciting to see student input shaping our campus neighbourhood.

I also represent APUS members as an *ex officio* member of the U of T Faculty of Arts and Science Council (alongside *ex officio* members from the Art and Science Students Union (full time) and the Graduate Student Union). The Faculty is currently revising its handbook and guidelines to ensure that student rights are known and upheld (eg. in the appeals process). COVID health and safety and accommodations are also a big concern this year.

I am the APUS representative on the Advisory Committee on the U of T Library System. Student Advocacy has helped to ensure that there was maximal access to the library resources (both online and in person) throughout the pandemic. APUS is proud of the part it played in bringing about the creation of the child-friendly Family Study Space in Robarts Library, the free child-minding pilot in the (pre-covid) exam period, the meditation space, and indigenous smudging space. We are glad to have had a hand in the design of the new Robarts Commons Study Space set to open in the near future. We are also pleased that the work of the library in providing online resources and addressing copyright concerns has significantly reduced the cost of course reading packs.

Together with other members of the Executive I attended a University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy Town Hall, as well as participating in a very productive one-on-one consultation between the UMLAP Review Committee and the APUS Executive team (and our consulting lawyer Karen Bower). We hope that many of the APUS suggestions will be incorporated into the new Policy.

I also attended a meeting with members of the U of T Faculty Association, and other U of T Staff unions (USW, CUPE3902) to consider COVID safety issues upon the gradual return to campus. Together with the other APUS executives. I participated in the regular consultation with the Office of the Vice Provost Students staff. I have participated in two online U of T website design consultations.

Internal APUS Involvement

I participate in regular Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Management Committee meetings. I helped to plan and participated in the APUS Fall Orientation on October 14 and 15, as well as the Board Meeting of October 19 at which an Anti-Black Racism workshop was held, and the Auditor's Draft Annual Report was presented. In the absence of a Members Services Coordinator (who left Sept 10), I ensured that the Health and Dental Insurance fall sign up/opt out went as smoothly as possible.

APUS Human Resources

Together with President Jaime Kearns, I facilitated the hiring and training of APUS new Academic Advocacy Coordinator, Christy Mc Morrow. Vice-President External, Shanti Dhoré, and I are currently in the process of hiring a new APUS Members Services Coordinator. Together with President Jaime Kearns, I facilitated the hiring and training of the new APUS Interim Executive Director. Linda Tsang. During the period when APUS was without an Executive Director, President Jaime Kearns and I performed the duties of the Executive Director.