



CESAR's Board of Directors Report



Annual General Meeting

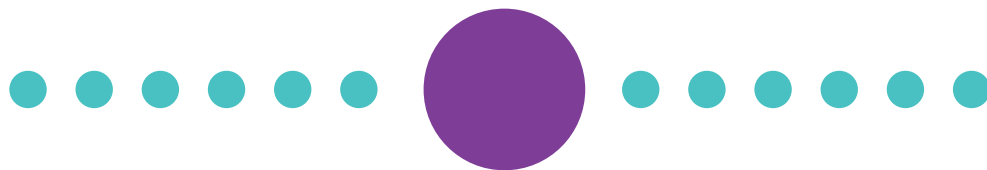
November 14th, 2019



CESAR

Continuing Education Students'
Association of Ryerson
Local 105 of the Canadian Federation of Students

Table of Contents



Equity & Campaigns	4
Services	6
Students Rights and Academic Advocacy	10
Canadian Federation of Students	17
Internal Affairs	20
Governance	21
Membership Development and Outreach	22
Events	23
Executives	26
Appendix A	32
Appendix B	37
Appendix C	50



Dear CESAR Member,

Your students' union continues to grow! In the last year, we've curated amazing events like the Winter Orientation where we welcomed back new and returning students to campus with lots of free food and activities. We've worked to change the narratives of continuing education students to ensure that our inclusion and participation was being felt throughout the university. And together, we have continued to organize and mobilize students to take action for free education.

This year is particularly important because of the announcements that the Ford government has been releasing on post-secondary education. The announcements included changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), cuts to funding for university and colleges, and changes to the ancillary free framework. All of these changes are an attack on students and workers on our campus. In addition, Federal Elections took place in October, and on-campus advanced polling stations saw almost a double in votes cast at nearly 2,300, compared to 1,400 in 2015.

To date, students have won tuition freezes, women's and trans only gym time, the Gould Street closure, and a split in tuition fee payments between each semester. All of these campaigns were organized by students through students' unions. However, our work at CESAR and as students does not stop until education is made accessible, affordable, and inclusive to all.

Students created student unions through fair, democratic processes that are representative of what we as students deem as important on our campus. The Ford government's strategy targets all students, however the changes will attack marginalized students the most. Student unions are essential, and need to be protected. We are working to fight for all students, and we want to thank you for supporting the work of YOUR students' union.

The board works to make sure all voices are heard when seeking direction from the members. I thank you for your commitment and dedication to CESAR.

There are many ways to get involved in CESAR. Here are some opportunities:

- **Volunteer with CESAR:**

Talk to students, develop your public speaking skills, and become an expert on student engagement!

Email: outreach@mycesar.ca

- **Join the We the Students Campaign:**

Care about keeping education accessible and affordable? If so, join our campaigns!

Email: president@mycesar.ca

We always want to hear from you. Please write us with your ideas, and how we can improve your experience at Ryerson. **Email:** board@mycesar.ca.

In solidarity,
The CESAR Board of Directors

Nicole Brayannis, President
Ayaan Abdulle, Vice-President Equity and Campaigns
Carol Sutherland, Interim Vice-President Services and Finance
Sloan Miller, Part-Time Director
Janet Rodriguez, Member-at-Large

Equity & Campaigns

We the Students

The We the Students campaign has been focused on raising awareness about the state of post-secondary education at Ryerson and across Ontario in light of the Ford governments' announcements.

The We the Students - Ryerson University, is a coalition of student organizations, like the Student Campus Centre and the Eyeopener, that have come together to mobilize students, and lobby against the proposed changes to the ancillary fee framework by the government. Hundreds of students signed postcards being sent to members for provincial parliament to tell the government how damaging these changes will be for all students. We are also continuing to collect petitions for free and accessible education

On February 19th, the We the Students campaign launched officially throughout Ontario. It was a call to action to all students and workers, that our lives and voices are under attack. For the rest of the semester, Ryerson students and workers host coalition meetings to discuss and plan what the future will mean for our education and livelihoods.

On November 6th, We the Students RU hosted a Day of Action featuring a student strike. Students took over the street and occupied the Yonge and Dundas intersection, followed by a march to join OCAD University and protest at Queen's Park. Thank you to the Ontario Federation of Labour for their financial and logistical support for the day.

CESAR encourages our membership to continue to join the movement in the fight for a free and accessible public education.



Time to be Bold

One of the campaigns that CESAR focused primarily on this academic year is the Federal Election engagement campaign. This year, Canada held its 43rd Federal Election. Ryerson had on campus polling stations that saw one of the highest student voter turnouts in Ryerson's history! Approximately 2,276 students voted at the advanced polls in 2019, versus 1,400 in 2015,

CESAR conducted outreach throughout the summer and fall encouraging students to go to the polls. CESAR created several materials including: 'Election Date' countdown board, 'What's Your Issue' boards, Pledge to Vote raffles, party platform boards and materials for residence and advanced polls. CESAR also advertised advanced voting at numerous events across campus such as the Ryerson Pow Wow.



Climate Crisis

On September 27, 2019, CESAR - along with the Ryerson Students' Union and Ryerson Graduate Students' Union - coordinated a Ryerson contingent for the Global Climate Strike. Over 300 students marched from the front of the Student Centre to Queen's Park to join with tens of thousands of activists to demand action on the climate crisis.

Services

Health & Dental

The CESAR Health and Dental plan this fall is active with 1574 part-time degree students currently enrolled. Approximately two thirds of all part-time degree students currently in courses stayed on the CESAR health plan this year, which is consistent with past numbers. The opt-out period ran from September 1 through October 11, giving eligible part-time members 5 weeks to decide on keeping the insurance or requesting a refund. The refund cheques are being bulk printed off-site, and are scheduled to return to the CESAR offices in time for distribution the first week of November.

Fall 2019 Family Enrolments:

This year we had just below 10 students enrol their families onto the health plan. This number is lower than usual, which can be attributed to the higher cost in the family enrolment add-on fee. Due to an increase in usage, the plan has experienced an increase in cost.

2018-2019 Health Plan usage:

The Health and Dental plan usage fluctuates every year. At the close of the last benefit year on August 31, 2019, CESAR members on the

Health plan relied mostly on dental coverage followed by drug coverage, spending the most on dental scaling, anti-depressants, and central nervous system stimulants in that order.

Fall 2019 Opt-out Period:

From September 1 to October 11 was the health and dental opt-out period for part-time degree students at Ryerson. This year, roughly 1,900 students enrolled as part-time degree, and more than two thirds of all part-time students stayed on the health and dental plans at CESAR.

Opt-out refunds were processed earlier than usual this year, and we were able to begin distributing to members as early as November 1, which usually happens in mid-November.





Legal Service

CESAR offers free legal services to its members through our in-house lawyer, Bill Reid.

If you are a CESAR member, you are eligible to meet with the lawyer to discuss any personal legal issues, ranging from: family law matters, landlord and tenant issues, employment or debt problems, criminal charges, accident claims, immigration applications, dealings with the government or corporations, and commercial or intellectual property issues.

CESAR's lawyer will offer you as much advice and assistance as he can with respect to each situation, and the best part is that there is no charge for using this service!

Appointments are available every Tuesday between 2:30p.m. – 6:00p.m. To book an appointment please visit the CESAR website.

Bursary

CESAR offers a bursary to its members every term. Any CESAR member who is in need of financial assistance can apply. It is a needs-based, non-refundable grant that is paid directly to bursary recipients.

All bursary applications are reviewed anonymously by the bursary committee. Bursary recipients are selected based on financial need and equity criteria.

More information about the CESAR bursary is available on the website at mycesar.ca/bursary.

It is important to point out that because of the Student Choice Initiative enforced by the Ford government, the optional fee (\$6.75), which funds the bursary and the emergency grant among other things, is deemed non-essential by this government. CESAR has, therefore, been forced to ask students to opt in to pay the non-essential fee to help fund the bursary.

In the winter 2019, CESAR received 312 applications. A total of 51 applicants did not qualify to be considered for the bursary, and 100 applicants received the bursary. In the spring 2019, CESAR received 198 applications, 32 were not qualified, and over 50% of applicants received the grant equaling 71 bursaries. In the summer we received 105 applications, 58 were not qualified, and 25 bursaries were given out, again over 50% of qualified applicants did receive the bursary. It is important to note that CESAR gives out bursaries every semester, i.e., fall, winter, spring, and summer (for courses which start in late June), while Ryerson University combines the spring/summer semesters as one.

At the time of this report, CESAR is working on the fall 2019 bursary. We have received 484 applications, and are awaiting the CESAR membership list from the University to be able to qualify students to be considered for the bursary.





Bursary Survey

CESAR is continuously seeking better ways to communicate with, and update its membership of upcoming campaigns, events, services, and important deadlines.

To this end, CESAR conducts a one-question survey when students pick up their bursary cheque to establish how best to reach members.

The results of the survey showed that most members heard about the bursary through the monthly CESAR newsletter sent to all members, followed by the CESAR website, attending the CESAR orientation in the fall or winter terms, and through outreach and class talks conducted by CESAR executive.

Other sources of information were identified as the Ryerson University and Chang School websites, as well as information provided to students through their respective program administrators and professors.

Emergency Bursary

The Emergency Grant Program aims to assist students facing unexpected emergency financial situations with a non-repayable grant. The grant is awarded for up-to a maximum of \$500 per academic year and available to cover non-academic related emergency situations. The Emergency Grant is only available to current CESAR members who are not also RSU members. With the increased precarity caused by many of the provincial government cuts, CESAR has found that there is an increasing number of applications.

CESAR has granted a total of \$3,600 to twelve students since May 1, 2019.

Handbook & Dayplanner

CESAR has distributed the handbook and dayplanner since early September. The planner is a great resource to understand all the services CESAR offers as well as having a full twelve month calendar with important academic and advocacy dates. The planner is a service of the Canadian Federation of Students which allows CESAR to print at a lower cost while maintaining environmental and labour standards. More planners are available in our office.





Member Services Office

The Member Services Office owned jointly by CESAR and the Ryerson Students' Union has undergone changes in the last 6 months, following the roll-out of the new Student "Choice" Initiative by the Ontario Government. This initiative has negatively impacted students' union budgets on campus, and their ability to offer services and staff that centre. With the migration of the TTC metropass to presto, there is no longer a VIP discount metropass available for continuing education students at Ryerson. The discounted movie tickets are now being sold in the basement of the Student Centre, out of the Copyrite printing office.


The Member Services Office remains open as a hub for student inquiries, namely health and dental plan questions from both full-time and part-time degree students at Ryerson. The Office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sponsorship


CESAR offers event, campaign and project support to campus and community groups that fall in line with our mandate. Support can often look like room bookings, printing support, social media sharing, volunteers, in-kind donations and financial support. With the introduction of the Student 'Choice' Initiative, the CESAR Executive team has greatly reduced the capacity to provide financial sponsorship and has largely focused on non-monetary donations or printing costs. Below is a list of CESAR-sponsored initiatives since the last March General Meeting:

- Jack Layton Leadership School
- Cathy Crowe Book Launch
- Young Women's Leadership Network
- Disability Pride March
- Ethno-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario
- National Council of Canadian Muslims
- Afghan Youth Engagement & Development Initiative

SERVICE OF THE MONTH

HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN  **CESAR**

SERVICE OF THE MONTH

COMPUTER & PRINTING SERVICE  **CESAR**



Student Rights & Academic Advocacy

Student Rights & Appeals

CESAR employs a full-time Student Rights Coordinator to assist CESAR members with all matters related to academic misconduct, grade and standing appeals, or any type of appeal, as well as any form of administrative issue with the university.

CESAR's Student Rights Coordinator, Lyndall Musselman, is available by appointment or during drop-in hours which are:

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Wednesdays, 4p.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursdays, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Please be advised that drop-in hours are first come, first served.

Academic Standing and Appeals Workshops

Leading up to the deadline to appeal Winter 2019 and Spring/Summer 2019 grades and academic standing, (which was May 24th and September 13th, 2019), the following workshops were offered to assist students:

- **“Academic Probation, RTW, PPW: What are my options?”**
- **“How to Write a Strong Appeal”**

CESAR works with the RSU to offer these workshops at the beginning of every semester to help students determine if they should appeal their grades or standing from the previous semester. Students can also go to mycesar.ca to obtain a comprehensive info package on the grade and standing appeal process and find out the dates for upcoming workshops. are first come, first served.

Worried about your Grades or Standing?

Appeals deadline for Spring/Summer 2019 courses:

**Undergraduate & Graduate Students:
Friday, September 13, 2019 at 4pm**

Need to appeal? Speak to your instructor or program director and check out the following workshops:

Academic Standing Issues: What Are My Options?

Wednesday, Sept. 4 12-2pm
Riel Room

Monday, Sept. 9 5-7pm
Riel Room

How to Write a Strong Appeal

Wednesday, Sept. 4 5-7pm
Riel Room

Monday, Sept. 9 12-2pm
Riel Room

All workshops are in the Student Centre, 55 Gould St.

For more info email
RSU's Student Issues & Advocacy Coordinator, advocacy@rsuonline.ca
OR CESAR's Student Rights Coordinator, studentrights@mycesar.ca



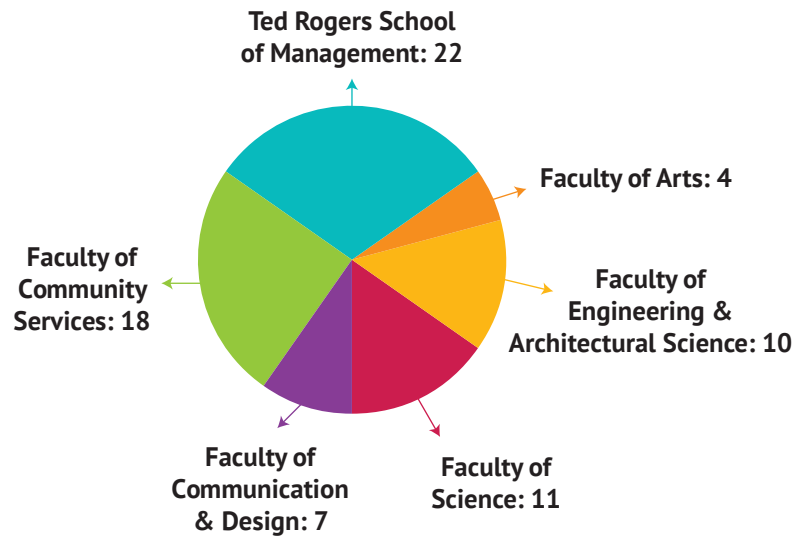
Program Information

Statistical Data on Student Appointments for Academic Advocacy

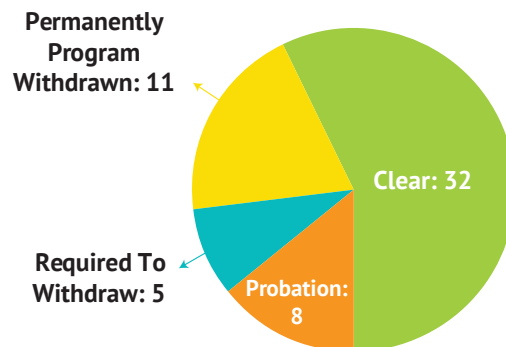
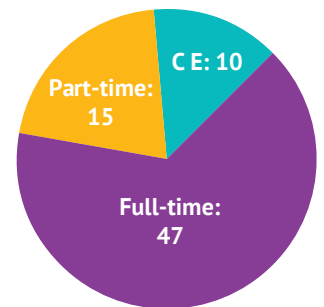
In order to track information about the students who seek advice from the Student Rights Coordinator, CESAR (along with the RSU) ask students to fill out an Intake Form for a meeting regarding student advocacy support. From the last reporting period which was for the Annual General Meeting in April of this year, more than 75 students have come in for assistance or booked an appointment with the Student Rights Coordinator. The statistical information below reflects what was indicated by students. Keep in mind that some students chose to identify themselves in certain ways, filling in some fields and not others, and that completing the form is optional and not at all mandatory.

Student Identity Demographics

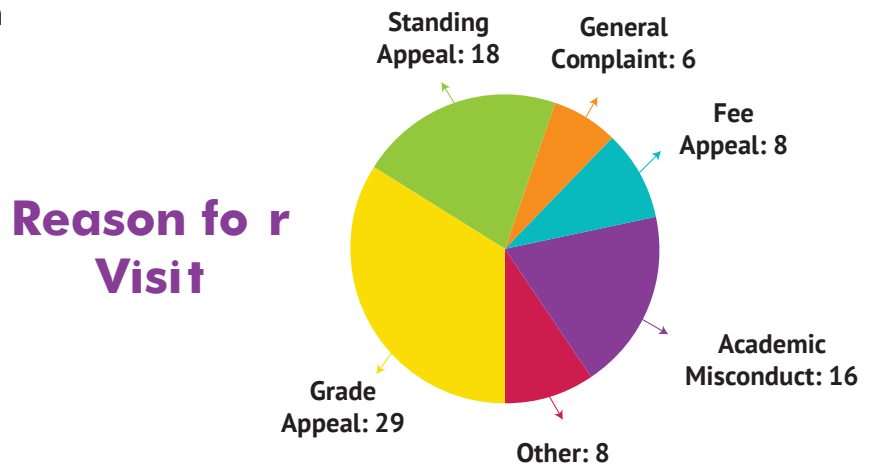
It should again be stated that many students opted not to complete this part of the form because it is not mandatory, but 31 of those who did complete the form identified as a woman, while 24 identified as a man while 2 identified their gender as being other. 46 students identified as being racialised. 28 students identified English as being their first language, while 20 stated that another language was their first language.



Status of Enrollment



Reason for Visit





General Analysis of Advocacy Intake Information

Collecting data is helpful to determine if there are any trends relating to systemic issues students face and to monitor the volume of student visits, and the nature of these visits, over a period of time. It should be noted that some of the students' cases are complex and involve multiple meetings and extensive preparation for appeal submissions or appeal hearings, while some of the cases are straightforward and are resolved quickly. It should also be noted that not every student that seeks assistance or is offered academic advocacy support is asked to submit an intake form. Due to the nature of certain concerns, the timing of things, or the means of communication with students, it's difficult to always find time to ask students to complete this form – however, going forward more effort will be made to track at least the volume of assisted students each year.

Academic Policy Review Committee


The Senate established the Ad Hoc Academic Policy Review Committee (APRC) in 2015 to review some very important policies, some of which have been amended and approved by the Senate, such as the Final Examination Policy (#135), and more recently the Course Management Policy (#166), which was approved on June 11th, 2019 and implemented starting September 2019. The APRC is still reviewing the Undergraduate Academic Consideration and Appeals Policy (#134) and the graduate

equivalent policy (#152). The plan is to create two separate policies: one on Academic Consideration, the other on Academic Appeals, both of these policies will cover undergraduate and graduate students and help keep processes consistent across the university. CESAR has two representatives on this university committee: the President and the Student Rights Coordinator.

Two pilot projects are still being assessed through this committee: the Academic Consideration Request (ACR) online system and the student self-declaration pilot to defer an academic obligation and not have to submit a doctor's note or documentation of a personal crisis on a limited basis per semester.

The ACR online system is now used throughout all undergraduate faculties (day school), but has not yet been implemented for Continuing Education courses through the Chang School. First rolled out in October 2017, this system is supposed to be user friendly, help keep personal information confidential, and be time efficient for both students and administrators. Students are no longer required to submit hardcopies of Health Certificates to their program offices as long as a digital version is uploaded for documentation purposes.

The student self-declaration pilot project for students in the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Program was underway through all of the 2017-18 and 2018-2019 academic year and is continuing through the fall 2019 term. Students in this program are limited to using the self-declaration form once to cover



two missed components in a three day time span per term. The self-declaration is a form a student submits to declare that they are unwell or unable to attend class or submit a specified academic component like a test or assignment. Other universities like the University of Alberta, Queens, McMaster, and Carleton have the option for students to use a self-declaration form instead of requiring a note from a doctor or Health Certificate. It would be very beneficial for students if this self-declaration process was opened up to all students. The APRC is now considering changing the name of this new process to be a request for academic consideration with “documentation not required,” rather than calling it a self-declaration. This will be discussed at the Senate meeting on November 5th in a Committee of the Whole session.

Review of Policy #61, Non-Academic Code of Conduct

The Policy #61 Review Committee met in April and May of 2019, but has not met yet in the Fall 2019 term. The CESAR representatives had been the Vice-President Internal, and the Student Rights Coordinator, but since May 1st the President has taken over as CESAR’s student representative. This is an important Ryerson policy that addresses students’ behavioural issues, such as complaints about harassment, assault, theft, or threats. Through the end of the Winter 2019 term town hall consultations were conducted with the various stakeholder communities on campus

about this policy. Very few students attended the town hall meeting for students, however your CESAR reps were there to participate. The review process of this policy was supposed to be completed this academic year, however because there has been a great deal of turnover in the Vice-Provost Students’ Office, the meetings in September and October were cancelled - so the work of the Policy #61 Review Committee will be delayed.

Review of Sexual Violence Policy

This important policy is considered an Administrative Policy of Ryerson, which makes it different than the rest of the university’s policy review discussed so far. It is the Board of Governors that will need to have final approval of amendments to this policy, rather than the Senate. On Monday October 7th, a meeting was held and CESAR representatives attended.



Ryerson's Senate

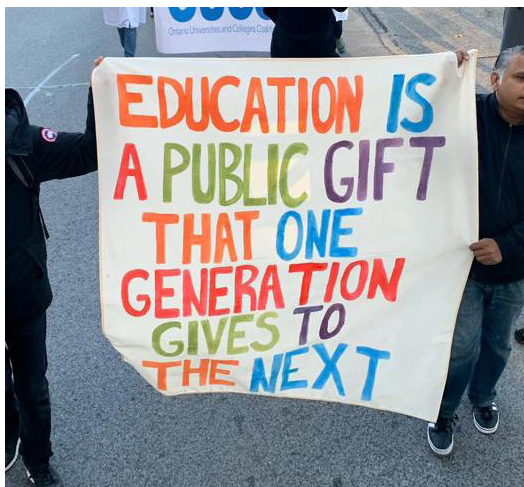
This is the primary decision making body for the university's academic policies and all program curriculum changes and review processes. CESAR has an ex-officio seat on the Senate, which the President holds. There are also two Chang School student representatives who sit on Senate as well. Meetings happen monthly, usually on the first Tuesday.

Chang School Council

This is the decision making body that approves all Chang School certificate program changes, which then need to be passed over to Senate for final approval. This council is supposed to meet on a monthly basis and is chaired by the Dean of the Chang School. CESAR has 5 seats on this council.

CESAR's Representatives are:

1. Nicole Brayannis
2. Ayaan Abdulle
3. Lyndall Musselman
4. Miriam Bartholomew
5. Leticia Msowoya



Ombudsperson Committee

This committee is responsible for the oversight of the Office of the Ombudsperson at Ryerson. This office is confidential, impartial, and independent from the university or any of the student unions or other organizations on campus. This is a resource for students who have complaints around issues of fairness. CESAR has two representatives on this committee, the Vice-President Equity and Campaigns and the Student Rights Coordinator. A meeting was held on October 23rd. The office's budget and current financial report were presented as well as statistics on the number of cases and website visits were discussed. Kwame Addo is the Ombudsperson and this is his first academic year in this role.



Student Labour Advocacy Coalition

CESAR has helped to provide space and establish a new student advocacy group, the Student Labour Advocacy Coalition (SLAC). SLAC is in its early stages of organizing, but its ultimate goal is to ban all unpaid non-volunteer student labour. This includes labour that is required for the fulfilment of degree programs, such as the 790 unpaid hours for the Bachelor of Social Work program. So far, SLAC has been building its membership, engaging in outreach, and networking with students across all fields for whom unpaid labour is demanded by the institution. SLAC is also beginning to form ties and establish branches at other post-secondary institutions, namely, Ontario College of Arts and Design University, and York University.





Canadian Federation of Students

Your Student Movement

CESAR is member local 105 of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The CFS is our national and provincial students' movement that coordinates research, lobbying, organizing and action across the province. We are all stronger when we work together!

The CFS has been extensively working on provincial advocacy to the provincial government around cuts to OSAP grants, underfunding of public post-secondary education, performance-based funding and the Student "Choice" initiative.

Campaigns

The Federation runs a number of campaigns that focus on access to education and social justice. CESAR implements those campaigns at Ryerson University to ensure that members are actively involved and knowledgeable in the students' movement. These campaigns include:

- We the Students
- Time to be Bold
- Fairness for International Students
- Divest Now
- Mental Wellness Matters
- Support Student Parents
- And much more

Legal Challenge

The Federation, along with the York Federation of Students, has filed a legal case against the provincial government and their implementation of the Student "Choice" Initiative. CESAR members were present at the courthouse for the first hearing of the case.

Successes

Through the Federation, students have successfully won:

- Decreased interest rates on Federal student loans
- Sexual assault policy, training, prevention programs and support services on all campuses
- More grants and 0% interest for six months on provincial student loans in 2016
- Increase of \$114 million over 5 years for Canadian Graduate Scholarships
- Right for international students to work off campus and qualify for a work permit after graduation
- \$800 million for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program to support Indigenous learners
- Ended the sale of single use water bottles at 30+ campuses, including Ryerson
- Fall Reading Weeks on many campuses across Ontario, including Ryerson
- And much more

Internal Affairs

Finances

CESAR has reduced its budget operations due to the implications of the Student “Choice” Initiative implemented by the provincial government. Due to the short notice from the government, this has meant that CESAR and Ryerson University administration had to forecast budget and funding categories with minimal information. Where CESAR usually approves an Operating Budget for the summer, this year’s Operating Budget was only able to be confidently approved in late September. As a result of the new legislation, CESAR has implemented a proposed Budgeting and Planning Framework to better forecast and revise budgets each semester and be accountable to the membership.

The 2018-19 audit can be found on the CESAR website and at the Annual General Meeting Package. CESAR’s auditors have indicated that there are no irregularities in CESAR’s financial systems.

Membership fee:

- 2019/20 CESAR Mandatory Fee: \$6.34/percourse
- 2019/20 CESAR Optional Fee: \$7.72/per course
- 2019/20 Canadian Federation of Students’ Fee: \$2.22/per course

Human Resources

CESAR employs both full-time unionized and part-time staff to coordinate the operations of the students’ union, in addition to the full-time Executive Director and three Executives. With the introduction of the Student “Choice” Initiative there has been a number of cuts applied to the CESAR budget. This has resulted in the CESAR General Members Meeting deciding to reduce the Executive Structure from five positions to three positions.

Over the summer, CESAR employed two Canada Summer Jobs interns endorsed by the Toronto Centre Member of Parliament, Bill Morneau. CESAR also employed one Career Boost funded student over the summer and four Career Boost funded students this Fall and Winter term. This year, two third-year placement students in Social Work are conducting project-based placements on Mental Wellness Initiatives and Student Action Initiatives.

CESAR continues to lobby the university to expand Career Boost funding to Certificate Degree student.

Sponsorship

CESAR has sought out sponsorship to help expand programs for the 2019-20 year. Thank you to the following sponsors:

- Ryerson University
- Raymond G. Chang School for Continuing Education
- Office of Sexual Violence Support & Education
- Meridian Credit Union
- Basil Box
- Ryerson Student Centre
- The EyeOpener
- CJRU Radio

Communications

CESAR uses a number of methods to communicate with members, since membership stretches across thirty-eight countries. Students who are interested in advancing CESAR's communication strategy are encouraged to get involved in the Digital Engagement Committee that is aiming to better engage Distance Education students. Get involved by emailing executivedirector@mycesar.ca.

Website

CESAR's website is the primary destination for all CESAR information. Visit us at www.mycesar.ca.

D2L

Every CESAR member has access to updates through D2L on their my.ryerson account. CESAR is expanding our outreach via D2L by posting more updates, events, services and advocacy tips. Get involved in the Digital Engagement Committee.

E-Newsletters

CESAR has been posting weekly newsletters for all members to have access to updates from CESAR. We try to post updates about CESAR, online feedback surveys and community events. CESAR also operates specific listservs for Part-time Degree and Certificate Degree students. Due to some miscommunications in the Registrar's office, some students were on the wrong list. This has since been resolved and we apologize for any confusion.

Social Media

CESAR operates a Twitter, Facebook and Instagram account that are regularly updated. Follow us at @RyeCESAR.

Twitter Follows: 602

Facebook Likes: 1,103

Instagram Follows: 383



Governance

Special General Meeting

CESAR hosted a Special General Meeting on July 24, 2019 in the Ryerson Student Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to amend CESAR Bylaws to accommodate changes imposed by the provincial government's Student "Choice" Initiative. The changes included creating Voting Members (those who pay the full CESAR membership fee) and Non-Voting Members (those who only pay the mandatory CESAR fee). Additionally, the Bylaw amendments included reducing the Executive from five to three members, to help reduce the operating costs of the students' union.

The President made a presentation to the members and all amendments passed as presented.



Semi-Annual General Meeting

CESAR has the Semi-Annual General Meeting on November 14, 2019. At this meeting there will be a presentation of the Bylaw amendments to create Conditional Membership for CESAR members. Conditional Membership allows CESAR members to maintain membership even if they are not currently enrolled in courses. This has been a growing area of concern for CESAR members as course selection has made it difficult for CESAR members to be enrolled in courses semester-to-semester. Additionally there are small amendments to clarify processes.

Annual General Meeting

The next General Meeting is scheduled for 5pm-6:30pm on Thursday, March 12, 2020 in the Layton Room of the Ryerson Student Centre.

Membership Development & Outreach

Class Representative Program

Each Chang School course is able to elect two Class Representatives per course. Class Reps are vital to CESAR's work. Class Representatives are responsible for relaying information to their classmates about CESAR activities and opportunities. They are also invited, like all members, to participate in committees, planning and volunteer opportunities. The Class Representative Program ensures there is representation across programs, certificates, and areas of study at General Meetings.

As a Class Representative, remember to check your email for information and updates to pass on to your class. Feel free to pass on concerns, suggestions, and feedback to CESAR at classrep@mycesar.ca. The CESAR Board wants to hear from you!

Key numbers:

- 39 Class Representative

Volunteer Program

CESAR's work is made possible by the amazing volunteers who get involved every Term. The volunteer program is operated through Track-it-Forward, an online application. Volunteers can

sign up for shifts and record hours to get rewards and recognition.

Key numbers:

- 9 Active volunteers
- 85 Registered volunteers

This term we are looking for more volunteers to join our campaign committees, help with outreach, poster, data entry, crafts and decoration, and more!

Committees

- Bylaws & Policy Committee
- Equity & Campaigns Committee
- Events Committee
- Digital Engagement Committee
- Mental Wellness Committee
- Mentorship Committee



Student “Choice” Initiative

The Student “Choice” Initiative was announced by the Provincial Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on January 17, 2019. The Initiative proposed that ancillary fees at post-secondary institutions would be optional, with a few exceptions. However, upon implementation it became clear that the proposal was to specifically attack students’ unions, activism on campus and campus media.

Since the implementation of the Initiative, CESAR has been negotiating essential and non-essential fees with the university, advocating against the initiative and education members on the impacts of its implementation, and preparing new operating structures to address a drastic cut to CESAR’s budget while trying to maintain as many services and expectations as possible.

CESAR is currently negotiating Accountability Agreements with the Vice-Provost Students to ensure that CESAR maintains operational and principled autonomy, negotiating power and a strong position to continue to advocate on behalf of part-time degree and continuing education students.

Maintain Your Membership

With the implementation of the Student “Choice” Initiative, CESAR launched a Maintain Your Membership campaign to encourage members to opt-in (or not opt-out) of CESAR fees.

Unlike other groups on campus, CESAR faced unique challenges in this campaign as members have different enrollment methods depending on their status as part-time degree or continuing education. A further challenge was the historically late enrollment timelines of Chang School students meant that many students are not on CESAR’s email listserv or are not on campus to access information about CESAR. The current opt-out system is built for full-time students, and not CESAR members. CESAR has consistently brought this to the attention of the Vice-Provost Students Office and we were able to secure an extension for the Fall Opt-Back-In period.

Regardless, CESAR members will continue to be disadvantaged in this opt-out system and we encourage all members to help share the Maintain Your Membership campaign through social media, class announcements and word of mouth.



Events

CESAR Fest

This year, CESAR expanded on Week of Welcome Programming to create CESAR Fest, which featured our annual Street Fair on September 17th and 18th, as well as new additions of a Trivia/Karaoke night and a Family Movie Night. To better cater to our membership, the free barbeque at the Street Fair was exclusively for current CESAR Members. The Street Fair also featured inflatable mini-putt, giant jenga and connect four, free gelato, a draw for a \$100 gift card, and community ally groups and university groups tabling in order to inform our membership of available resources. Trivia/Karaoke Night took place in Ram in the Rye and featured prizes and free food. The Family Movie Night screened Moana, and featured free food and sensory toys in order to entertain both our members and their younger family members!



Mental Health Programming

The mental health programming is done by the Mental Health and Wellness Committee that meets every two weeks to discuss upcoming events and initiatives. While some events have already happened, the committee is preparing events for the new year, including the Annual Love, Health, Sex Week, an ongoing sexual health speaker series webinar, and other engaging workshops such as creating essential oils.

In the coming weeks, members are encouraged to get involved in exam distress kits and outreach from December 2 - 6, 2019.

Past Events:

Cupcakes & Chill: Oct 24, 2019

Paint Night: Oct 24, 2019

Stretch Out the Stress: Nov 13, 2019

Additionally, a wellness tab will be added to the CESAR website in order to provide quick links and resources regarding health and wellness.



Career Events

CESAR is planning a number of workshops and events aimed at building professional skills, networking opportunities and knowledge of employment standards. CESAR solicited feedback for workshops and programming from a survey distributed via the email listserv, D2L and social media.

In the upcoming semester there will be workshops on LinkedIn and Mentorship, as well as the return of CESAR Career Week.

Pride

CESAR Executives were excited to once again participate in the float organized by RyePride for the Toronto Pride Parade. In addition, CESAR Executives attended the Vogueing event hosted by the RSU and RyePride. Prior to Pride Month, CESAR took action on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia on May 17th by taking to Yonge and Dundas in order to collect signatures for the We The Students petition, in the spirit of protecting safe spaces for marginalized students that the Student Choice Initiative directly targets through “essential” categories.



Good Food Market

CESAR is a partner on monthly Good Food Markets hosted by the RU Students' Good Food Market where fresh and affordable produce is sold to students, faculty, staff and community members.



Social Justice Week

CESAR assists the Unifor National Chair in Social Justice and Democracy to plan Social Justice Week from October 28 - November 1. This year's theme was Recipes for Change and featured a number of panels, speakers, workshops and galleries. CESAR hosted a workshop titled “Education Under Attack, what do we do?” which focused on building campaigns focused on goals, strategies and tactics. Some of the highlight events from the week included:

- **Alicia Elliott:** Why we should all be activist What Haudenosaunee philosophy can teach us about our responsibility to the Earth
- **Charmaine Nelson:** True North: Unmasking slavery in Canada
- **Land Back:** A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper
- **Creative Action** during the Climate Crisis





DisOrientation

CESAR helps plan DisOrientation Week with the Ryerson Students' Union and the Equity Service Centres. DisOrientation is a week of social justice oriented events that was held from September 9-13, 2019. This year's programming included Yoga in the Park, Vegan Cooking Classes, a screening of "Dancehall Queen," Drag Story Time, an Accessibility Tour and a Take Back the Campus Block Party.



Upcoming Events

November/December 2019

Dance for Mental Health

Tuesday, January 14 | 4:30pm-6pm

Storytelling & Self at the Workplace

Tuesday, November 26 | 3pm-6pm

Exam Destress Kits

December 2-6

January 2020

Volunteer Training

Tuesday, January 14 | 4:30pm-6pm

CESAR Frost Fest

January 20-24

Intro to LinkedIn + Headshots

Wednesday, January 29 | 5pm-7pm

February 2020

Love, Health, Sex Week

February 10-24

Black History Month

Throughout February

March 2020

International Student Dinner:

Monday, March 16 | 6pm-9pm

CESAR General Meeting

Thursday, March 12 | 5pm-6:30pm

CESAR Career Week

March 16-20, 2019

April 2020

CESAR End of Year Gala:

Monday, April 1 | 6pm-9pm

Exam Destress Kits

April 14-17

**Nicole
Brayiannis,**

President

**Annual General
Members'
Meeting Report,**

November 2019

Portfolio Summary

The President is the official spokesperson of the student union, who acts on behalf of the Board and the membership. The interests of the part-time degree students and continuing education remains at the forefront of the President's portfolio – to advocate and lobby for the membership. The President works to foster equity practices in creating a safe campus and community for students. Further, the President oversees communication with University administrators, external groups, and membership. The President also communicates with the Chang School to communicate with and ensure that the needs of the membership are heard. Included in the President's role is managing staff relations as well as creating transition plans for new incoming Board members.

Accomplishments

- Successfully assisted in planning and executing the We The Students RU: Day of Action - Student Strike, as well as secured partnership funding through the Ontario Federation of Labour, and served as MC and marshall on the action day
- Acted as the Official Spokesperson of CESAR to both student and public media
- Assisted in the organization of the Class Representative program and communication strategies and meetings to ensure information is being communicated to CESAR members
- Revived Ryerson's All Union Coalition. This group strives to unite labour and student unions in order to target and create solidarity for individual and collective causes on campus; members include CESAR, RSU, RGSU, Ryerson Faculty Association, CUPE 3904 (Unit 1 and Unit 3), CUPE 1281, CUPE 233, and OPSEU
- Oversaw the "Time to Be Bold" get out to vote outreach strategy that encouraged students to vote in the on-campus polling stations for Federal Elections and consistently reminded members to vote via social media on election day
- Participated in the rally and march at Queen's Park in support of Grassy Narrows and the necessary action to ensure that Reserves across Canada have access to clean drinking water and safe living conditions

- Participated in collecting signatures at Yonge and Dundas Square for the We The Students campaign and advocating to save pride centres on International Day Against Homophobia
- Attended the TTC Rider rally at City Hall that calls
Acted as a Marshall in the Global Strike for Climate Change
- Assisted in the logistics and execution of the Student Float in the Ontario Federation of Labour's action against the Provincial Government, when they resumed operation after a 5.5 month break
- Attended the court hearing in which the Canadian Federation of Students and the York Federation of Students took the Ontario Government to court against the undemocratic Student Choice Initiative
- Represented CESAR as Local 105 in the Canadian Federation of Students at the Ontario General Meeting and National General Meeting
- Represents CESAR with an ex-officio seat on Senate

Future Projects / Goals

- Work to increase the presence of the All Union Coalition on campus by means of developing a central campaign that fully unites workers and students, and educates Ryerson students of the impact of cuts from the Ontario Government and the necessity to greater invest in public funding for post-secondary education
- Hold a Dean Meet-and-Greet with the new Dean of the Chang School, in order to give CESAR members better access to their administrators
- Improve CESAR's digital outreach strategy aimed at better engaging online education members
- Continue to build the We the Students RU campaign and plan another We The Students Day of Action next semester, against the cuts and Student Choice Initiative from the Ontario Government
- Improve membership engagement through volunteer opportunities and events
- Lobby the University to include CESAR members as eligible candidates for Career Boost Positions
- Continue to actively review and update CESAR's by-laws and policies, to strengthen member representation and Board of Director work

**Carol
Sutherland,**

**Vice—President
Services &
Finance**

**Annual General
Members’
Meeting Report,**

November 2019

Portfolio Summary

In the six weeks that I have been a member of CESAR’s executive, I have been involved in organizing, facilitating and executing various events and initiatives across Ryerson’s campus.

I am especially proud of our work with emergency bursaries to support students in crisis, our involvement with the 2019 Social Justice Week and our involvement with the Day of Climate Action.

Accomplishments:

- For the past six weeks I have overseen disbursement of emergency bursaries due to OSAP cuts and personal hardship
- Helped organize and marshal the Ryerson participation in the Global Climate Strike on September 27, 2019.
- Assisted in CESAR Fest including planning and execution of activities, promotion and community engagement.
- Outreached for Federal Elections engagement during on-campus advanced polls
- Represented CESAR in organizing, promoting and executing Ryerson’s 2019 Social Justice Week
- Worked on the “Land Acknowledgement” for CESAR with other Ryerson Staff including the Aboriginal Education Council
- Worked on amendments and new proposals for CESAR’s Bylaws and Policies
- Managed and recommended sponsorship applications to the board and executive
- Engaged in class outreach to encourage student engagement in such things as voting, volunteering with CESAR and employment with CESAR

Future Projects/Goals:

- Build a healthy reserve fund up to 18 months from the current 6 months, and ultimately 3 years.
- Organize a tax clinic.
- Amend the Bylaws to allow executives to work a minimum of 20 hours to a maximum of 30 hours per work.
- Increase executive pay to \$22-25 per hour from \$19 due to the level of responsibility.
- Restore 100% students opting-in to support students' unions.
- Develop a mentorship program for CESAR students.
- Collaborate with Tri-Mentoring Program and similar programs across Ryerson
- Run a workshop on money management for CESAR students
- Support CESAR Ad-hoc committees
- Create an event for Black History Month
- Create a series of workshops for CESAR members around safety on campus, self-defense and making safe spaces

**Ayaan
Abdulle,**

Vice—President Equity & Campaigns

**Annual General
Members'
Meeting Report,**

November 2019

Portfolio Summary

The Vice-President Equity and Campaigns is responsible for coordinating advocacy initiatives, events and outreach for CESAR. The position also liases with the Equity Service Centres and other equity and advocacy groups on and off-campus. The portfolio is also the primary contact for the Canadian Federation of Students.

Accomplishments

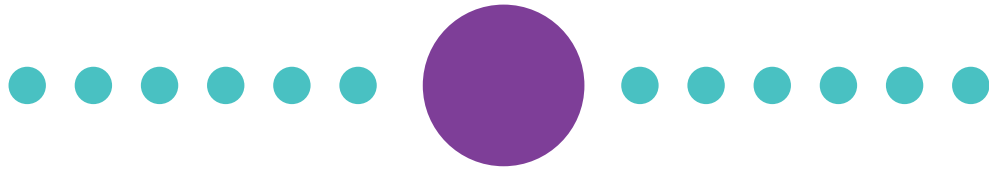
- Supported in the planning and execution of this year's CESARfest.
- Supported in the various events planned by RyePride for Pride Month.
- Act as the Executive representative at the Ontario Executive Committee of the Canadian Federation of
- Students. As part of the Committee, I attended the Ontario Executive Committee Meetings in May and October.
- As part of the We The Students RU, assisted in leading campus meeting and organizing the one day Student Strike that was held on November 6th. The Strike planning was a collaborative effort between CESAR, RSU and the student led Strike Planning Committee.
- Lead lobbying efforts in critiques of the implementation of Special Constables on campus.
- Collaborated with Equity Service Centres in ensuring that services and events are effectively shared with CESAR members.
- Led this year's Federal Election campaign #TimeToBeBold that encouraged students to vote on campus and in their risings. Organized modes of outreach that provided students with accurate and necessary information to ensure informed voting.
- Supported the Canadian Federation of Students in the court proceedings that appealed the implementation of the Student Choice Initiative by the Government of Ontario.
- Organized and led the Social Justice Week workshop 'Education Under Attack' to discuss the cuts to post-secondary education.



Future Projects / Goals

- Continue to support and collaborate with the Equity Service Centres to better meet the needs of CESAR members.
- Organize the Winter Week I'd Welcome, #CESARWinterFest
Increase volunteer engagement by exploring structural incentives.
- Continuing to lobby the university to support providing free menstrual products across campus
- Continue to lobby the university to review the implementation of Special Constables on campus

Appendix A



Meeting Minutes

Special General Membership Meeting

Date:
July 24, 2019

Time:
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Location:
Oakham Lounge
Ryerson Student Centre (SCC)
55 Gould Street

Attendance:

First Name	Last Name
Nicole	Brayiannis
Ayaan	Abdulle
Kimberley	Vaz
Harnoor	Gosal
Leticia	Msowya
Douvel	Richard
Carol	Sutherland
Kaitlin	Rizarri
Rob	Molloy
Isidora	Roskic
Johnson	Le
Joshin	Marriott
Adam	Asmar
Maria	Jude
Gilson	Kasap
Majorie	Davis Williams
Victoria	Atteh
Ashley	Singh
Katherine	Stewart

Proxy Name	Proxy Holder (Non – Voting)
Sloan (Jo) Miller	Nicole Brayannis
Jacqueline Sharun	Ayaan Abdulle
Lauren Atkin	Adam Asmar
Clarissa Getigian	Joshin Marriott
Samantha Howden	Kimberley Vaz
Julie Mutis	Ashley Singh



Staff:

Hildah Otieno, Chair
Corey Scott, Executive Director
Shahla Navai, Internal Coordinator
Lyndall Musselman, Student Rights Coordinator
Juanita Muwanga, Communications Coordinator

1. Call To Order:

The meeting is called to order at 5:24pm.

2. Remarks From The Chair

The CESAR Executives welcomed the gathering, introduced themselves, and gave an overview of their portfolios.

Otieno introduced herself as the chair of the meeting and explained meeting procedures would follow Robert's Rules of Order.

a. Welcome and meeting procedure overview – Nicole Brayianis, President

Brayianis welcomed everyone and suggested that attendees jot down questions about any of the items being discussed, which she would be happy to address later during the meeting.

b. Recognition of and Respect for Unceded Traditional Territories of First Nations People – Ayaan Abdulle, Vice-President Equity and Campaigns

c. Equity Statement – Kimberley Vaz, Vice-President Services and Finance

3. Approval of The Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Agenda Be Approved As Presented.

MOVED: Brayianis

SECONDED: Marriott

RESULT: CARRIES

4. Approval of The Minutes – Appendix A

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the November 2017 Annual General Meeting be adopted as presented.

MOVED: Brayianis

SECONDED: Msowya

RESULT: CARRIES





5. By-Law Amendments [APPENDIX B]

Brayiannis explained that the By-Laws were divided into three sections: Membership Structure, Executive Structure, and Other Changes.

Brayiannis noted that because of the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) introduced by the provincial government, CESAR had been put in a position to revise its membership structure for students who paid the compulsory fees only, and students who also paid the optional fees. Students who paid the optional fees, had additional rights and privileges, could vote at membership and committee meetings, vote and run in elections, and apply for bursaries and grants.

Brayiannis stated that while there were currently five executive positions on the CESAR Board, in the new By-Laws, it was being proposed those positions be reduced to three executive members who would be taking on more responsibilities within their portfolio, while saving the organization money. The SCI made future funding for CESAR unpredictable, and, therefore, CESAR has been looking at areas where costs could be cut so members could continue to receive the same quality of service as before.

Brayiannis said that other changes included clarification of language, staff designations, and correction of typographical errors. She added that once the By-Laws were ratified, the CESAR Board would make changes to the CESAR Policies to reflect the By-Law Changes.

Otieno announced that the changes to the By-Laws would be voted on as an omnibus package.

MOTION:

Whereas the Student “Choice” Initiative (SCI) was implemented by the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party government for the Fall 2019 semester; and

Whereas the SCI allows CESAR members to opt-out of “non-essential” CESAR services while continue to pay “essential” CESAR services, thus creating a dual membership structure; and

Whereas tuition fees, rent, transit and the general cost-of-living will undoubtedly encourage CESAR members to opt-out of CESAR fees due to a financial reality; and

Whereas the inability of CESAR to accurately project opt-in membership numbers will make the current Bylaws fiscally irresponsible; therefore



Be it resolved that CESAR amend the CESAR Bylaws as presented in Appendix B as an omnibus package to be implemented upon adjournment; and

Be it further resolved that the CESAR Board of Directors be tasked with reviewing and amending the CESAR Policy Manual to reflect the changes in the new By-laws package; and

Be it further resolved that CESAR continue to challenge the implementation of the Student “Choice” Initiative as an attack on student advocacy, community, and autonomy; and

Be it resolved that CESAR review the CESAR By-laws should the Student “Choice” Initiative be rescinded.

MOVED: Brayianis

SECONDED: Asmar

RESULT: CARRIES

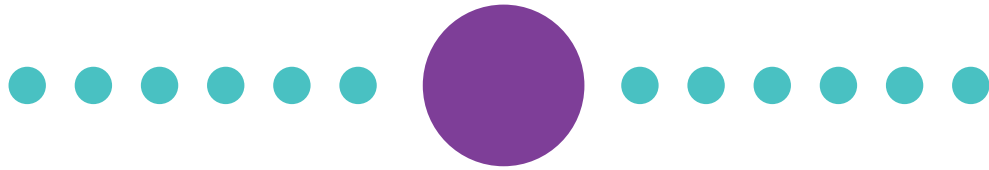
Meeting loses quorum at 6:04pm.

6. Other Business (Without Quorum)

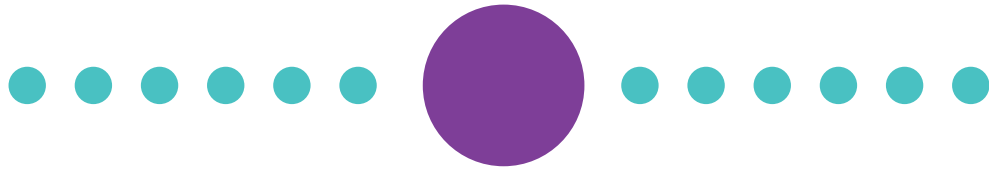
Brayianis and Vaz encouraged discussion on areas of concern specifically affecting the CESAR membership so they could get input and mobilize to reverse decisions which were detrimental to members. They asked students to volunteer and apply for available Board positions, and bring forward any motions for the next general membership meeting.



Appendix B



Appendix C



The Continuing Education Students' Association of Ryerson (CESAR) is located on the third floor of the Ryerson Student Centre:

**SSC301, 55 Gould St.
Toronto, ON, M5B 1E9
416-979 5193**

**Office Hours:
Monday–Thursday: 11:00 a.m.–6:30p.m.
Fridays: 10a.m.–6p.m.
www.mycesar.ca**

