



CESAX

Continuing Education Students'
Association of X University —
Local 105 of the Canadian Federation of Students

SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

November 18, 2021



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LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE

Dear CESAX Members,

Over the first half of this term, our organization has reviewed, developed and implemented our plans for our digital operations to meet the needs of students in the context of the COVID pandemic. Our team established our goals for the year and carried out plans for a comprehensive in-person and online orientation. Our Board, Executive, and staff have continued to meet and communicate regularly, we have continued to offer cost-saving services, host and collaborate on events, and work on our outreach.

This year, we have seen pivotal changes brought about through the collaborative organizing work done by current and former Indigenous students, faculty and staff. The Egerton Ryerson statue is gone, the university will be renamed, and CESAX will continue to support the work of Indigenous and racialized students organizing against colonialism and racism within the institution, including during the university's renaming process.

Looking forward, CESAX will advocate and pressure the university administration, pushing for the changes needed to realize an X University that is equitable, affordable, and accessible for students. While the university is choosing a new name, CESAX will be advocating for new and better processes to protect students' rights. We are pursuing our collective goal to bring more students into the wider student movement, working with the Canadian Federation of Students.

There's work ahead of us to realize our goals. CESAX will continue to fight for students rights and work with our members towards our shared goal, free, accessible, equitable education for all. Through our collective efforts, there's so much more we can accomplish.

In solidarity,

Maddy Fast, President

CFS ONTARIO LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of CESAX! As members of CESAX you are also members of local 105 of the Canadian Federation of Students. General meetings are an important opportunity for students to get involved in the student movement. Through your students' union, you are members of the oldest and largest student organization in the country. With over 40 years of experience, the Federation is an avenue for you to learn from other students, to build strong campaigns together and to fight for victories for all students.

Students in Ontario have experienced one of the most challenging couple years that the student movement has ever seen. Students have felt the disaster which has been the pandemic response, many students losing their jobs or income supports, struggling with online school and dependent care as well as the high-cost of tuition which continues to impact students during the ongoing pandemic. Students are exhausted from the stress of living, working and studying during a public health crisis.

The student movement has long fought for students rights and for a free and public education system. The Federation is part of a global movement bringing students together to demand better for current students but also future students. Our strength is in our numbers and working together is how we will succeed. We will experience these challenges and create change, because the power of a collective student movement cannot be underestimated. United, we will never be defeated!

In Solidarity,
Kayla Weiler, National Executive Representative
Sarah Abdillahi, Ontario Treasurer

COVID-19 REPORT & UPDATES

Operations

CESAX continues to operate throughout the pandemic. The majority of services and events have been transferred to digital platforms. For services and events that could not be transferred to digital platforms, the CESAX team has worked to provide information on community supports, offer in-person opportunities or develop alternatives to our regular programming.

Health & Safety

CESAX has prioritized the health and safety of our staff, volunteers and general members throughout the pandemic. The office has not been open to members since March 2020, however CESAX continues to do in-person outreach during Orientation periods and occasional in-person events and direct actions in outdoor settings.

To ensure the safety of everyone involved, CESAX has regular meetings of the Joint Health & Safety Committee where we review policies and procedures. Through these meetings, we update internal procedures and have established workplace protocols in line with the standards set by the Ministry of Labour.

As CESAX looks to either fully or partially reopen in the Winter 2022 term, we will review the guidelines set out by the government, university and student centre, and continue to prioritize the wellness of our staff, volunteers and general members.

Future Planning

CESAX is currently reviewing the plans of X University and the provincial government, while also taking into account the planning of the Chang School. At this point, the CESAX office will look to continue in person outreach opportunities and have either a partial or full return to the office. CESAX will continue to host the March General Meeting in either a fully digital or hybrid model.

EQUITY & CAMPAIGNS

Introduction – Vice-President Equity & Campaigns

This has been a very unique year for student engagement and organizing. Many students are coming out of a year of isolation and are looking to get involved with their communities. However, many are still facing systemic barriers to safety and education that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. CESAX has many internal and collaborative campaigns but has prioritized three, year-long campaigns that challenge oppressive systems in our society. These main three campaigns are Harm Reduction, Indigenous Resurgence, and Education for All.

These are all educational and action-based campaigns that highlight disparities in access to social determinants of health and discriminatory treatment amongst members of specific communities. We discuss organizational priorities and strategies about these campaigns every month at the meetings of the open Equity and Campaigns Committee.

Get Involved!

If you have ideas for new campaigns or ways to expand upon existing ones, join the Equity and Campaigns Committee. You can also email any questions to vp.equity@mycesax.ca or sign up for our newsletter.

Harm Reduction

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, accidental overdoses due to a toxic, unregulated substance supply have reached an all time high in Ontario. With a concentration of services in the downtown core of Toronto, X University is at the centre of this public health crisis. While pressure from student organizers have led to progressive changes in previous years, we all have a collective responsibility to understand the underlying conditions that inform this public health crisis and learn ways to keep each other safe.

In the spring of 2021, many CESAX representatives sat on the advisory committee to revise the university's code of non-academic misconduct. As per the recommendations of CESAX executives, reference to substance use has been removed from this policy in addition to the adoption of clauses on harm reduction and restorative justice.

To foster educational opportunities in the area of harm reduction, CESAX has hosted free online events such as naloxone training and overviews of existing public health policies. CESAX has also contributed to the 11th annual Social Justice Week with an interview with frontline supervised consumption workers to discuss strategies to combat this public health crisis. CESAX is also in the process of creating educational materials and sterile supplies to promote safer consumption on campus. This education will also be furthered by working with the Chang School in the development of a new certificate program in harm reduction.

Tour of the Works

Watch our Social Justice Week contribution with a Tour of the Works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AY6Z0WqeH64>

Education for All

CESAX continues to organize for a future of fully-funded post secondary education, and are working to mobilize our members to advocate with us. To make up for government underfunding, X University, as well as other institutions, continues to pursue a strategy of making international students pay more and more, even raising fees during the pandemic. CESAX has been vocal in opposing these tuition increases and calling for an end to differential fees. To this end, we created a Lobby Document to submit to the university to consider student priorities in the university budget.

During our outreach, we have engaged with students about the fight for free education and disseminated the CFS's Free Education Now campaign buttons. We plan to organize the Education for All campaign to have influence as an election issue in the upcoming Ontario provincial election.

Read our Lobby Document: Education for All

See our research and Eight Recommendations for 2020-21 <https://mycesax.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CESAR-Lobby->

[Document-2020-2021.pdf](#)

Indigenous Resurgence & Solidarity

The past year has been a time of change and challenge around Indigenous sovereignty and resurgence campaigns – not just at X University but also across all of Turtle Island. There have been important callouts and actions around land defenders in Wet'suwet'en and 1492 Land Back Lane, but also a lot of community pain and mourning for the discoveries of over 7,000 unmarked children's graves at former residential schools (that have been found). At X University, organizers have been fighting for action on the removal of the Egerton Ryerson statue and a name change, but also increased Indigenous faculty and staff hires, financial aid systems and systemic changes. This resulted in the university choosing to strike a Standing Strong (Mash Koh Wee Kah Pooh Win) Taskforce rather than respond directly to the community concerns. On June 2, 2021, the CESAX Board of Directors adopted a temporary name change – which cost CESAX little to no funds – in solidarity with calls from students, staff and faculty at X University.

While the taskforce collected information, conducted surveys and solicited feedback, and underwent training processes, the community organized and chose to take actions into their own hands. On May 31, 2021, a vigil was held at the statue where children's shoes were donated. On June 6, 2021 a group of community members tore down the Egerton Ryerson statue and later delivered the head of the statue to 1492 Land Back Lane. This took away

the low hanging fruit for the university to simply remove the statue, and instead forced them to look at deeper options. On August 26, 2021, the Board of Governors accepted the Taskforce Report and 22 recommendations, one of which included changing the University name.

After consultation with community organizers, CESAX declined submitting a submission to the Taskforce due to the perception of past Presidential-appointed Taskforces. CESAX did not want to validate a process that was not community-led. Throughout this process, CESAX has offered financial, institutional, human and skills-based support to campus and community organizers. This has also included donations to land defenders and community organizations doing the work. However, the successes of all this work does not belong to CESAX, but to the brave and courageous Indigenous students, staff and faculty that organized from the ground up. We thank those organizers for letting us be a part of the movement to advocate for truth and reconciliation.

More Resources

Introducing X University: <https://yellowheadinstitute.org/2021/05/11/welcome-to-x-university-an-open-letter-to-the-community-from-indigenous-students/>
Standing Strong Committee Report: <https://www.ryerson.ca/standing-strong-task-force/>
A Brief History of X University: <https://theeyeopener.com/2021/08/timeline-a-brief-history-of-x-university/>



Federal Elections

This year has been a challenging year for organizing around a federal election. Not only was a snap election called, giving only 36 days for on-campus organizing, but Elections Canada also announced that they would not be continuing the Vote on Campus program. This advanced polling program, run with the assistance of the Canadian Federation of Students, resulted in over 180,000 votes between the 2015 and 2019 federal elections. Upon rumours of the discontinuation of the Vote on Campus program, CESAX signed on to a letter to Elections Canada from The Democratic Engagement Exchange and XU Votes, asking for the reimplement of the program. Despite this, Elections Canada did not reinstate on campus advanced polling. CESAX also sent in an emergency motion to condemn the federal government’s decision to call an unscheduled election to the Ontario General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students. The motion passed with unanimous support.

CESAX continued to organize on campus and engage students on election matters with the Canadian Federation of Students’ #GenVote campaign. This included tabling on Gould Street during fall orientation, asking students about why they were voting, and distributing information about election issues and ways to submit their ballot. This information also digitized and shared on social media to reach a great number of students.

CESAX also requested residence halls to send proof of residency to all students housed in Pitman Hall, The Daphne Coxwell

Centre, and the International Living and Learning Centre so that eligible voters could register to vote in the new riding on election day. CESAX staff and executives spent voting day on campus, directing voters in residence to their designated polling station and answering questions about voting.

Provincial Elections

The upcoming provincial election in the spring of 2022 is an opportunity to mobilize our members and students across the province around student issues at the polls. We are forming our plans for a robust campaign that aims to raise solidarity around tuition fees and funding for our postsecondary education. We plan to share information with students about the political history of funding cuts in the province of Ontario, build pressure on candidates and elected representatives around a number of important student issues, and support students to lobby their provincial candidates directly. We are also planning an international student vote, as we know that international students in Canada are unjustly excluded from the right to vote in elections. We will be ending our campaign sharing information with students about ways to vote.

Provincial Election Campaign Goal:

Produce a provincial elections campaign that has a strong issue-based narrative, and which maximizes student participation from across ridings

Collaborative Campaigns & Endorsements

CESAX has partnered with many community organizations to create learning opportunities and events for our members. Our financial donations can be found in the Services section. CESAX continues to partner with community organizations by sharing opportunities in newsletters, D2L and on social media.

Many of our partnerships took place in the month of June for Indigenous History Month and Pride Month programming. Collaborations continued in September with a webinar event titled “Understanding the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act with Students for Harm Reduction. CESAX also co-hosted the annual Toronto Disability Pride March.



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

The Canadian Federation of Students is our national and provincial students’ union, conducting research, mobilizing students and advocating for effective and principled change. CESAX is local 105 of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Founding Principle

To achieve our ultimate goal – a system of post-secondary education that is accessible to all, which is of high quality, which is nationally planned, which recognises the legitimacy of student representation, and the validity of student rights, and whose role in society is clearly recognised and appreciated.



Campaigns

The Canadian Federation of Students represents students’ issues and concerns to the government, while conducting in-depth research to support policy recommendations. However, lobbying and accurate research is only effective when students are actively engaged in campaigns to influence the decisions and policies of the government. The Federation’s campaigns are driven by the active participation of its members in order to raise public awareness of the issues and to influence government decision-making. These are some of the Federation’s current campaign focuses.

Education for All

Constant increases in tuition fees and growing student debt are a significant barrier for students to attend post-secondary education in Ontario. The Canadian Federation of Students has long fought for universal access to education for all those studying in Ontario and is actively working towards identifying and dismantling all barriers that prevent people from accessing post-secondary education. The Education For All campaign seeks to build a better understanding of how public post-secondary education is funded and highlights the ways in which chronic government under-funding and major cuts continue to erode the quality, accessibility, and affordability of education.

The cuts and underfunding to public post-secondary education in the province have led to program cuts, increased precarious work, the privatization of campus resources and an increasing reliance on tuition fees as a source of

revenue, especially from international Students. The campaign demands that institutions immediately reduce tuition fees for the current academic year; provide more grants, not loans; introduce the progressive reduction and elimination of tuition fees for all students, which means increasing public funding to gradually eliminate tuition fees for all students; and remove interest on outstanding student loans and an end to the charges on future loans.

Fairness for International Students

International students participate in post-secondary education in the same ways as domestic students, but face more precarious learning conditions. Institutions routinely set international student tuition fees at levels three to five times higher than domestic students and require international students to pay into private health insurance programs. The Fairness for International Students Campaign advocates for the regulation of international student fees and for full health coverage under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). This campaign is widely used by member locals to inform and educate international and domestic students on the experiences of international students on campus.

This campaign demands that universities regulate and eventually eliminate international student tuition fees; reintegrate international students into OHIP; and advocate for international student rights to be on par with domestic student rights in Ontario.

United for Equity

The United for Equity campaign aims at challenging and educating students on barrier-free access to post-secondary education regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, and socio-economic background. The campaign addresses different forms of discrimination and oppression on campus and in our communities. The campaign is widely used by all member locals to support broader equity work.

This campaign demands that student organizations and education institutions create a foundation of knowledge on equitable language, frameworks, and identities; reduce the stress and hassle for marginalized people to explain their identities; and ensure the students' movement is a space for marginalized students to organize, feel safer, and have the power to make the students' movement diverse and inclusive to all.

Services

The Federation offers a number of services to students' unions and general members.

Ethical Purchasing Network

This service allows students' unions from across the country to use economies-of-scale to purchase orientation and membership swag at bulk rates and makes purchasing ethical materials more feasible. Through this program, CESAX has been able to purchase ethically produced and manufactured waterbottles, tote bags and other supplies.

National Student Health Network

As you will see in our Services section, CESAX is currently using the National Student Health Network through the Federation. This allows students' unions to negotiate fairer and more transparent plans for members, with minimal administrative fees through for-profit third parties. The network is essential player in fighting off increased privatization of students' union health and dental plans, whereas leading competitors Gallivan, We Speak Student and Student Care are collectively owned by for-profit 'People Corporation.'

UFile

The Federation provides promotional codes for members to use UFile to complete taxes for free. Along with being a standard online tax filing system, UFile is also a bilingual program that is effective for filing taxes between provinces. The promotional code is CFS1981.

Student 'Choice' Initiative

In January 2019, the provincial government announced the Student 'Choice' Initiative (SCI) among other policy proposals to cut public funding for education, change OSAP criteria and make other massive changes without thorough consultation. The proposal would essentially make students' union fees optional and would put students' unions in a precarious position with their institution administration. With the work of the Federation and students' unions across the province, students fought back against the proposal and filed a legal challenge. In November 2019, the SCI was deemed unlawful. The provincial government appealed the ruling in March 2021. In September 2021, the students' movement won the appeal and the government has not appealed further. The SCI is no longer in effect, at least until the next election cycle.

Governance (Elections)

The Canadian Federation of Students has a provincial and national component that ensure we have strong and diverse representation when advocating for students. In addition to at-large representatives, the Federation also has a council of constituencies to advise the campaigns and work we do as a students' movement.
www.cfsontario.ca | www.cfs-fcee.ca

Current Representatives

National Chairperson: Alannah Mckay
Ontario Chairperson: Vacant
National Deputy Chairperson: Wesam AbdElhamid Mohamed
National Treasurer: Marie Dolcetti-Koros
National Executive Representative-Ontario: Kayla Weiler
Ontario Treasurer: Sarah Abdillahi

2022-23 Representatives

National Chairperson: TBD
Ontario Chairperson: Mitra Yakubi
National Deputy Chairperson: TBD
National Treasurer: TBD
National Executive Representative-Ontario: Sarah Abdillahi
Ontario Treasurer: Camille Duhaime

CESAX Representatives

CESAX has two appointees on the Federation's Ontario structure:
Local 105 Representative - Steph Rychlo, VP Equity & Campaigns
Part-time & Continuing Education Caucus Chair - Annie Yang, VP Services & Finance

SERVICES & FINANCE

Introduction – Vice-President Services and Finance

Student services and access have also looked different this past year. The most accessed services have been financial aid, mainly the CESAX Bursary and Emergency Grant. To recognize the increased need and demand, the Board determined to allocate additional resources and funds to these programs.

The Legal Clinic, which is provided by our in-house lawyer Bill Reid has shifted online this past year. As of summer 2021, the Graduate Student Union members also have access to the legal aid service as a part of the operating agreement between CESAX and the XGSU. The Legal Clinic is in the process of collecting data to review what are members' most needed legal support.

Due to information confidentiality issues, the annual Tax Clinic was not held in Spring 2020 or 2021. We are cautiously planning for an in-person Tax Clinic for Spring 2022. Starting in November, the CESAX is collecting feedback from its members about service access and personal needs to advise new service development. Members are encouraged to fill out the Student Service Survey that is available until January 2022. A

Health & Dental Plan

All part-time degree students are automatically enrolled in the CESAX Health & Dental plan. Plan coverage includes 80% coverage for prescription drugs, \$65 eye exam, 65% dental coverage, custom orthotics, acupuncture, diabetes supplies and more. This coverage begins in September or January, depending on your date of enrollment, and spans through the Spring and Summer terms until August 31.

Fall 2021 Opt-out Period & Refunds:

The CESAX Health & Dental opt-out period for all part-time undergraduate degree students at X University ran from September 1 to October 8, 2021, Approximately 1900 students enrolled as part-time undergraduate degree students in the Fall 2021 semester. Just under of all part-time undergraduate students chose to remain on the plan. With just under 800 students choosing to opt-out of the plan for a refund by submitting their comparable alternative coverage for both health and dental benefits. Opt-out refunds will be processed in the coming weeks and will be distributed via e-transfer after mid-November.

Fall 2020 Enrolling Dependents onto the Plan:

Just under 20 students chose to enrol their dependents onto the CESAX Health & Dental Plan for an additional fee. They look forward to using the plan after the temporary inactive period ends in mid-November.

Upcoming Health & Dental Plan Survey:

CESAX will be surveying the membership about it's Health & Dental Plan in the upcoming months. This data will be used to help improve our plan during negotiations for the 2022-2023 CESAX Health & Dental Plan. Your insights and wants are what drive these changes and we greatly appreciate your participation and feedback on these issues.

Sign up for Greenshield Everywhere:

Make handling claims and reimbursements easier by signing up for Greenshield Everywhere: <https://gsceverywhere.ca/login>

Legal Service

CESAX offers free legal services to its members. Bill Reid, CESAX's in-house lawyer, is available to provide advice and assistance with respect to most legal areas, including housing situations, family law, employment, accident cases and other monetary claims, as well as immigration, OSAP and over government matters, criminal and quasi-criminal charges, and starting businesses. Bill has served over 50 CESAX members this year, however usage is climbing as a result of outreach initiatives we've undertaken during the present pandemic.

One initiative is a series of ten "Quick Information" links that appear on the Legal Aid Clinic page of the CESAX website and provide general information about legal issues of common interest. Another initiative has been a series of webinars that the Legal Aid Clinic has hosted, which during the 2020-21 academic year have dealt with Tenants' Rights, Student Debt Relief and the Work-from-Home Tax Deduction. These webinars are still available to view on YouTube or the Legal Aid Clinic page of our website.

Watch our Legal Aid Webinars

Tenants Rights - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6j5_-mLr20c&t=3s

Student Debt Relief - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2khS1AlaZi4>

T2200 and Work-from-Home Relief - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjPu6qeU8pY>

Please visit <https://mycesax.ca/legal> or contact legal@mycesax.ca to make an appointment.



Tax Clinic

In collaboration with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), CESAX is planning to host an in-person Tax Clinic during tax season of the Winter 2022 semester that will be FREE to ALL students. We are looking forward to being back in-person in a safe and secure manner for our members, staff and volunteers. We are being proactive about COVID safety measures and will continue to work within the restrictions, while meeting the needs of the membership. Stay tuned for more information on our Winter 2022 Tax Clinic, including volunteer opportunities, at mycesax.ca/tax-clinic.

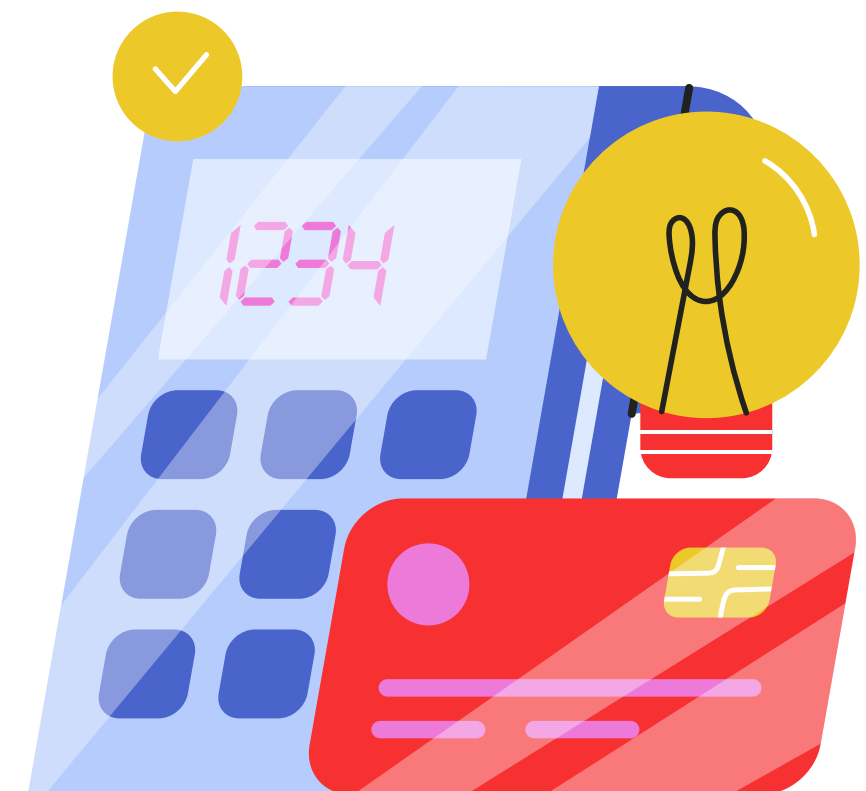
For those interested in attending our Winter 2022 Tax Clinic, there will be income restrictions placed by the CRA. If you're a student making more than \$30K per year, you won't be able to get help at the clinic, but you can use the Canadian Federation of Students' Ufile code to file online for free. This information can be found on our website at mycesax.ca/tax-clinic.

Also, if you are looking to catch up on previous years returns, you can also book an appointment at one of the CRA's other free clinics found online at the Government of Canada website or if you are an international student, please contact International Student Support (ISS) at issask@ryerson.ca for information on their annual tax clinic.

File Taxes at Home for Free

Use the UFile Code: CFS1981

More information at mycesax.ca/tax-clinic



Bursary

CESAX Bursary is a one-time grant open every semester. It is a financial needs-based bursary eligible to every continuing education, part-time, full-time, and distance education student enrolled in Chang school course(s) in the current semester. CESAX receives a direct fee from students to fund this program. However, the Board has allocated additional funds to the program due to the increased need and the surplus from the previous fiscal year.

Due to the high volume of applications in 2020-21, the CESAX Bursary Committee amended the individual bursary amount to \$300 and then \$400 to serve more students. Due to the increased financial amount and an overall reduction in applications, the Committee has amended the Bursary amount back to \$500 as of Fall 2021.

By the Numbers

Semester	Individual Allocations	Number of Recipients	Total Allocations	Increase from Previous Year
Winter 2021	\$300.00	200	\$60,000	+\$10,000
Spring 2021	\$400.00	100	\$40,000	+\$10,000
Summer 2021	\$400.00	100	\$40,000	+\$10,000
Fal 2021	\$500.00	190	\$95,000	+\$15,000
Winter 2022	\$500.00	150	\$75,000	+\$15,000

Emergency Grant

The CESAX Emergency Grant is open all year round for current CESAX members. It is a financial needs-based bursary eligible for CESAX members experiencing acute and unforeseeable crisis situations. The grant is available for every continuing education, part-time, and distance education student enrolled in Chang school course(s) in the current semester. The grant is not available to members of the RSU or XGSU taking CE courses due to membership in their other students' unions.

From May 1, 2021, the beginning of fiscal year 2021-2022, to November 1, 2021, there have been a total of 8 Emergency Grants given out. Applicants with documentation submissions for proof of emergency situations were given priority considerations.

The CESAX Board of Directors have chosen to refresh the Emergency Grant fund with the surplus from the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Sponsorship & Donations

Below are the donations and sponsorships that CESAX has been a part of from March 1, 2021 to November 1, 2021:

Ethno-Racial Disability Coalition of Ontario (ERDCO)
Butterfly Project
Annie Parker Foundation
Free Grassy Narrows
Toronto Prisoner Rights Project
Unifor Chair for Social Justice & Democracy
Chang School Photography Exhibit
Palestinian Youth Movement - Toronto
Toronto Disability Pride March
Indigenous Harm Reduction Toronto
Native Arts Society
Wreckonciliation at X University
1492 Land Back Lane

STUDENT RIGHTS & APPEALS

Introduction – Vice-President Internal

CESAX has now returned to a five executive team structure – including the return of the Vice-President Internal. This role is essential to ensuring that students are represented in the academic and university planning process. During the pandemic, this position is especially important as our university is going through massive changes.

This past summer, we welcomed the addition of the X University Graduate Students’ Union (XGSU) but struggled with the low engagement of the Ryerson Students’ Union (RSU). This has left CESAX and the XGSU to do much of the student advocacy for the campus. We effectively participate in the Chang School Faculty Council, Senate Meetings and try to find our way onto as many university committees as possible. Unfortunately, the university has not built continuing education inclusion into much of the democratic structures of the campus. Something we continue to raise and will continue to raise at every engagement. CESAX employs a full-time Student Rights Coordinator to assist our members with all matters related to academic misconduct, grade and standing appeals, as well as any administrative issues or complaints with the University.

All Union Coalition

CESAX continues to meet regularly with campus labour unions and students’ unions around issues coming up on campus. Collectively, we have been able to work to share information on the Navitas program, Health and Safety planning, cuts to education and collaborate on policy proposals that serves students, instructors and staff members. When we work together, it becomes more difficult for the university administration to divide us.

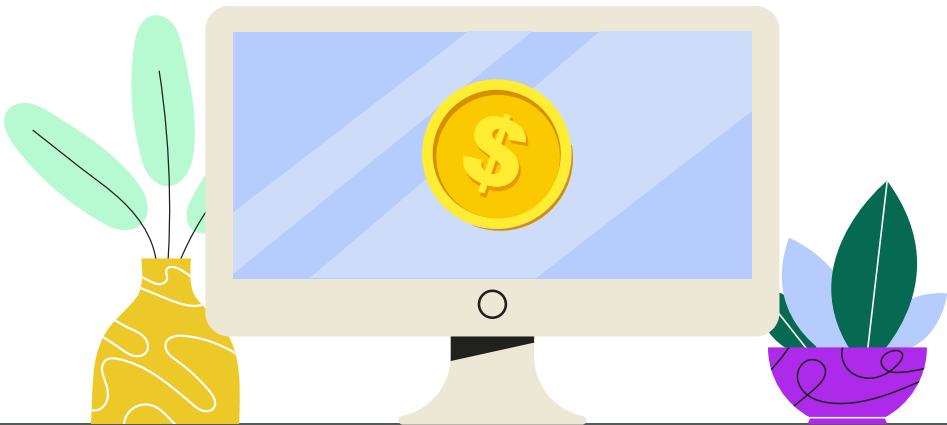
Support for Laurentian students and workers

Read our statement of support, and calls on the university and government:
<https://mycesax.ca/about/news-and-letters/laurentian/>

University Governance

Unfortunately, CESAX does not have a direct seat on the university’s Board of Governors; however, CESAX does have a seat on the university’s Senate – the highest level academic decision making body. The CESAX President has been filling this position and attending all Senate meetings, which happen the first Tuesday of each month.

A key focus on university governance this past year has been to scrutinize the private partnership with Navitas, a for-profit international company. Last year the university launched the Ryerson University International College (RUIC), which is a private pathway program for international students, who if successful would transfer into the second year of either Business Management or Arts degree programs at X University. Students in this program pay excessive fees and are not technically X University students. CESAX will soon release a lobby document to demonstrate the damaging impact on public, high quality post-secondary education, not to mention the misleading marketing and exploitation of international students.



University Policy Review

Senate Policy 46, the Undergraduate Course Grading, Academic Program Standing, and Eligibility to Graduate Policy, was recently amended at Senate. CESAX provided substantial feedback on the draft version of this policy back in May, just a few weeks before it went to a Senate meeting in June for approval. CESAX and many other Senators were opposed to changes in the policy that would reduce the amount of time students had to complete outstanding coursework to resolve Incomplete grades, restrictions for students to be able to enrol in courses the following semester if they had more than two Incompletes, and other problematic changes related to Incompletes. At the June Senate meeting an amendment was passed to remove the concerning parts of the proposed policy. In August members of this policy review committee emailed to ask for feedback on their revised wording related to Incompletes. The version of this policy approved recently at the October Senate meeting fit with the feedback that CESAX had provided.

There are review committees for Senate Policy 159 and the Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Policy (DHP) and its Procedures, however these committees do not include any representatives from CESAX or the RSU.

CESAX is devoted to making sure student input is included and at the forefront of all decision-making at Ryerson. Thus, we continue to collect feedback from students regarding university policies, which we then compile and relay to the relevant committees.

Please contact CESAX’s Student Rights Coordinator at studentrights@mycesax.ca if you have any additional questions, or are interested in sharing your perspective.

Chang School Governance

CESAX met with the Dean of the Chang School to discuss possible collaborative options to assist CE students with different issues i.e Convocation issues, Chang School Refund Policy reform. We are actively working with members of the Dean’s office to meet on a more formal basis to hopefully start a working group on the next steps with regards to tackling the convocation issues. We have made suggestions relating to Chang School Refund Policy and are still in the research and development stage of this process.

Get Involved!

Do you have feedback for the Chang School in terms of policy, services or academics? Get involved in the Continuing Education Advocacy Committee. You can also email any questions to vp.internal@mycesax.ca or sign up for our newsletter.

Academic Standing and Appeals Workshops

Every semester CESAX and the Ryerson Students’ Union host workshops to support students facing issues with their academic standings (such as Academic Probation, Required To Withdraw, or Permanently Program Withdrawn) or who want to file grade appeals to challenge the final grades they received. The following workshops were held as Zoom webinars since the last reporting period:

Academic Standing Issues: What are my options?

May 14, May 18, September 9, September 14
How to Write a Strong Appeal
May 13, May 19, September 10, September 13
Roughly 10–20 students attended each session of the webinars.

Watch Online
Watch the Appeals Workshops on our YouTube Page: www.mycesax.ca/youtube



EVENTS

Letter from VP Events

With the return of the five executive structure, the Vice-President Events & Outreach position has been very active over the Spring and Summer terms. This year we were able to plan a huge line up of events for the Fall term and have set up consistent programming for the year that meets our members where they are at.

Despite the challenges by the pandemic, and the changing nature of continuing education, CESAX has been able to adapt and rise to the challenge with digital programming. We continue to develop new strategies for part-time degree students and continuing education students. We also are doing a thorough review of the volunteer and class representative program to reflect the changing dynamics of our campus. As tuition and cost of living continue to rise, it is harder for students to find time to get involved than ever before. However, we will continue to try and find as many pathways as possible, with varying capacities and outcomes.

Thank you to all the volunteers, board members and staff members for setting up such an amazing lineup of programming. Find our events at www.mycesax.ca/events or join the Events Committee to get more involved.

Get Involved:

If you want to get involved in CESAX events, join the Events Committee. You can also email any questions to vp.events@mycesax.ca or sign up for our newsletter.

CESAX Orientation

CESAX organized a number of events for CESAX members to welcome students back to campus. In addition to our events lineup, we also organized Orientation Kits and in-person outreach to welcome students back.

Yoga in the Quad

September 17, 2021

Members were invited for an in-person yoga session in the centre of the university campus.

Fireside with Chang School

September 20, 2021

Students were able to ask questions to CESAX and the Dean of the Chang School about studying at X University. A number of questions focused on items from career and academic support, financial aid, the university name change and addressing conflicts in the digital classroom.

CESAX 101

September 21, 2021

Members were able to learn about CESAX in a quick presentation and trivia game. This presentation was also given to a number of part-time degree programs between August and September.

Understanding the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act

September 22, 2021

Members were able to register for this workshop addressing the toxic drug supply crisis and how we can keep our communities safe. This session was very popular and has spawned into follow-up

and repeat events.

Drag Bingo

September 23, 2021

A staple event of our Orientation Week, Drag Bingo was a facilitated social space for members to have fun and meet each other.

Welcome to the Student Movement

September 27, 2021

Members were able to get a brief introduction to CESAX, the Canadian Federation of Students and the campaigns we run.

Navigating Academic Success Series

CESAX hosted a series of workshops that addressed the challenges of virtual learning for new and returning Chang School students, and raised awareness of available University and Students' Union services.

Understanding Online/Hybrid Learning with Zoom, D2L and Google Suite

August 30, 2021

The first session focused on virtual learning platforms and was hosted by a lecturer from the School of Communications. Instructor Michael Dick talked about using the D2L from the instructor's perspective, including tips on communicating with instructors on D2L. This was a well-

attended session and the enthusiasm raised the need for future follow-up sessions.

Navigating Academic Integrity and Student Rights

August 31, 2021
The second session was about Academic Integrity Policy and Student Rights. Guided by a learning specialist from the AI office, students learnt the Policy 60 or Academic Integrity through an interactive online game.

Accessing Online Learning Support & Accommodations Support

September 7, 2021
The third session focused on learning and accommodation resources. A learning specialist from Student Learning Support and Academic Accommodations Office discussed the technological and human supports available to Chang students and explained the AAS intake process.

Prioritizing and Maintaining Mental Health & Wellbeing in Academic Consideration

September 8, 2021
The fourth session focused on mental health. Topics were the challenges of mental wellness during COVID and support resources available. There was also a brief discussion on Policy 167, appeals for academic consideration on the grounds of mental health. This topic sparked interest for further discussions in the future.

Watch the Sessions:
Watch the sessions or get the presentations at www.mycesax.ca/academicsuccess

Social Justice Week

October 25–29, 2021
This year’s Social Justice Week theme was “Waves of Change”. The organizers wanted to highlight stories of communities challenging institutions and creative alternatives. They aimed to do this through online, pre-recorded conversations that could be created into podcasts. For CESAX’s submission, a video/podcast was created on the province’s growing number of overdose deaths, supervised consumption, and critiquing the War on Drugs. This was a conversation with the Manager of The Works, a supervised consumption site that shares geography with X University.

The Works at Toronto Public Health supports over 60 agencies across Toronto to offer harm reduction supplies and services at over 100 locations and access points. Supervised consumption facilities such as these act as health alternatives to medical institutions. In this video/podcast interview for Social Justice Week, CESAX explored how the Works was created and highlighted the importance of having strategies in place that centre the needs of people who use substances. The interview also discusses the need for holistic action from the state in. Specifically the video/podcast argues that until the toxic drug-supply crisis is met with widespread decriminalization and a legalized, safe supply of all substances, we must continue to act as first responders to

keep each other safe.

Watch Online:
Catch all of the events from Social Justice Week at www.ryerson.ca/socialjustice

Black History Month Black History Trivia

February 25, 2021
Trivia night surrounding Black Excellence. Trivia questions were themed around Black accomplishments.

Movie Night: Celebrating Black Film

February 26, 2021
For movie night we hosted a screening of Madame C.J Walker. Following the film we had a talk back with student artist and director Malik Mosaic where they highlighted several Black short films and discussed with the group the importance of Black art, and resistance through art.

CESAX Buy Black Market Launch

March 3, 2021
For the market launch we had Jalissa from Toni Marlow come speak about the importance of Black entrepreneurship through a lense of anti-capitalism and creation of intergenerational wealth. Jalissa talked about their experience as a Black trans business owner, and the struggles of being a Black person in the queer business community. Following this event we launched a CESAX Buy Black Marketplace.

The Need for Caribbean History

March 5, 2021
This panel discussion featured two Caribbean academics. This was an opportunity to learn about Caribbean History as intrinsically part of Black history month. Caribbean history is frequently invisible in many university curriculums and areas of study, often leading Caribbean History to be largely ignored in the greater scheme of Black History. This discussion aimed to delve into the on-going struggles of Black Caribbean people and Caribbean settlers/arrivants on Turtle Island and the crucial roles these narratives play in the larger fight for Black liberation.

Trivia Nights

CESAX hosts monthly trivia events featuring various themes and categories from some of the most current events that took place and was centered around upcoming events. It served as a fun refresher to participants to learn and educate themselves while having fun with knowledge. Prizes were awarded for first, second and third place winners at each trivia series.

Hindsight is 2020: An Introduction to Student Mental Health & Burnout

March 17, 2021
CESAX hosted a workshop in March regarding tips and tricks to combating burnout and building student mental health.

Naloxone Trainings

CESAX has hosted a number of workshops and trainings for the campus and community around the toxic drug supply crisis and ways to care for each other. The sessions that CESAX provides include an overview of the toxic drug crisis in Canada, the criminalization and surveillance of People Who Use Drugs, and overdose prevention and response practices. This is valuable knowledge for first responders, health care practitioners, or anyone concerned with the rise of overdose deaths from contaminated substances in our communities.

In our November session, CESAX provided nasal spray naloxone kits by mail on a first-come first-serve basis. Kits were mailed in order to prioritize access to naloxone outside of the Toronto downtown core, where most naloxone distribution programs are located.

Taking Action

April 26, 2021
CESAX co-hosted this discussion with the Unifor Chair for Social Justice around creating positive change in our communities, featuring MPP Jill Andrews, Hawa Mire, Kiké Roach and Carol Sutherland.

Indigenous Histories Month and Pride
June is a reflective time for two communities that often intersect. This year, CESAX collaborated with students' unions and campus groups across the GTA to put on a number of events and workshops to enhance the conversations and build community across campus lines.

Pride Trivia

June 9, 2021
CESAX hosted a Pride-themed trivia night and awarded prizes for local Toronto retailers.

Two-Spirit Knowledge Sharing Circle

June 18, 2021
CESAX collaborated with the Indigenous Students' Association at York to host a 2-Spirit Knowledge Sharing Circle. This sharing circle was led by Kairyn Potts and Elder Laureen Blu Waters over Zoom, which allowed attendees to share their own experiences and teachings on 2-Spirit identities, teachings, roles, and responsibilities as well as allow for questions from non-Indigenous or non 2-Spirit attendees.

Pride Movie Night: Pose

June 18 & 25, 2021
CESAX worked with other students' unions to host a multi-night screening of Pose

Drag Storytime with ZacKey Lime

June 20, 2021
CESAX hosted a virtual Drag Storytime event for student parents and their children, with amazing stories and musical performances.

The Politics of Kink

June 23, 2021
CESAX hosted a virtual panel on the Politics of Kink, discussing various community perspectives surrounding the connections between Pride, kink, and queer liberation.

Landback: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

June 24, 2021
The Indigenous Students' Association at York, in collaboration with the York Federation of Students and CESAX, hosted a panel titled Landback: Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow. This panel provided an opportunity to hear about and discuss community perspectives on the historical, contemporary, and future connections between land back, Indigenous rights, and sovereignty.

Pinkwashing & Pride

June 25, 2021
This event brought awareness to the exploitation and pacification of 2SLBTQIA+ rights and liberation movements via marketing and political strategies to portray a false image of tolerance and perceptions of progressive politics.

Drag Bingo

June 30, 2021
CESAX hosted a Drag Bingo event, hosted by local Toronto drag queen Erin Brockobi .



ORGANIZATIONAL

Name Change

On May 21, 2021 the CESAX Board of Directors approved a motion to temporarily change the name of our organization to align with the calls to action by Indigenous students at X University. The name change came into effect on June 1, 2021 and members were notified via email, D2L and social media. A section of our website was also dedicated to informing members of this change.

The cost of the change remained low, due to the knowledge that the university would likely change its name again. Therefore, while the legal name of the organization remains, the public face – digital communications, events, campaigns and most services – is now reflected as CESAX. There were no costs, aside from internal human resources and minor registration expenses, associated with changing the name. Emails and website links to the mycesar.ca domain remain active but send to mycesax.ca. All security registrations are active on both domains.

Thank you to the support of the Canadian Federation of Students for making this change seamless.

XGSU

CESAX welcomes the X University Graduate Students' Union (XGSU) as the central students' union representing full-time and part-time graduate students. CESAX is proudly working beside the XGSU to prioritize student rights on campus and fight for a more just society for our members.

CESAX has worked with the XGSU to ensure the continuation of student services for graduate students as the organization begins to collect fees, set policy and develop terms of reference. To this end, CESAX and the XGSU entered into a one-year Operating Agreement to continue services for Legal Aid, Student Advocacy and collaborative programming, as well as to support the human resource needs of the XGSU.

X University

Learn more about the name change at www.mycesax.ca/xuniversity

Human Resources

CESAX currently employs five unionized full-time staff, one Executive Director and a number of part-time staff and placement students. CESAX was able to maintain a record number of part-time employees and guarantee student work opportunities during the pandemic.

CESAX continues to advocate for the inclusion of Continuing Education students in the Career Boost program and provincial Work Study program.

Finances

CESAX 2021-22 Membership Fee 2021-22:

Operating Budget: \$11.11

Bursary: \$2.78

Ryerson Student Centre Fund: \$0.50

Health & Dental: \$232.47

Canadian Federation of Students: \$2.72

CESAX is currently in a healthy budget position. We continue to see growth or slight increases in membership enrolment in all semesters. With COVID-19, the Board of Directors has had to review the operating budget and the current demands and needs of the membership. This has resulted in a reduction in common expenses from in-person programming, such as food for attendees, and re-invest funds into communications software, emergency grants and more digital programming.

Upon receiving Winter 2021 fees, the 2020-21 Board of Directors decided to allocate the surplus to the following areas:

CESAX Bursary: \$50,000

CESAX Emergency Grant: \$70,000

CESAX Equity Fund: \$25,000

CESAX Capital Expense Fund: \$30,000

In the Summer 2020, CESAX identified an irregularity with part-time degree student fees and worked with the Vice-Provost Students Office to identify that the wrong fee framework was applied to part-time degree students taking three or more courses. The CESAX Executive has worked with the University to address the issue and refund part-time degree students for incorrect fees back to the Winter 2020 term. CESAX has taken specific steps to also create a system to contact students who have graduated or are no longer enrolled, so that they can have the opportunity to be refunded.

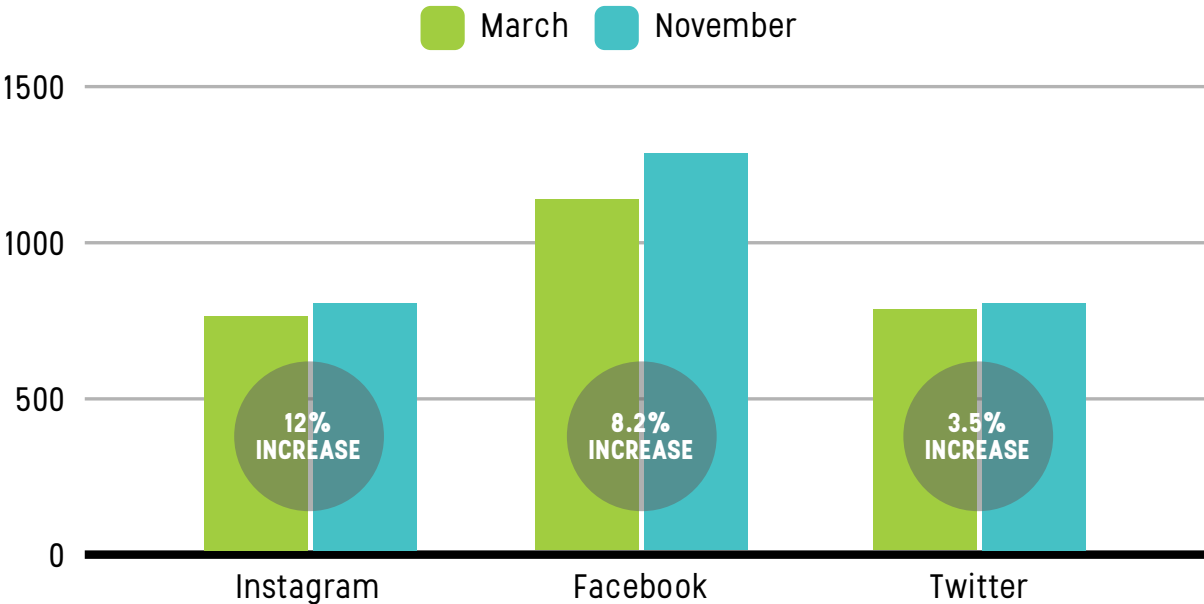
Communications

Digital communications and social media have become a core practice at CESAX. Whether it be for campaigns or event promotion, in the age of COVID-19, social media has proven to be our most impactful outreach tactic. Because of this, CESAX has aimed to increase its social media presence on Instagram, Twitter and TikTok. In order to increase our social media engagement and presence we have tried several new strategies including but not limited to; social justice education shareables, instagram repost contests, following allied organizations and re-sharing their content. With social justice education becoming more and more prominent on social media it has become much easier to see traction on our educational materials, and it has proven to be a successful tactic at educating our membership. Becoming a strong temporary alternative to in person outreach surrounding equity and anti-oppression.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic CESAX has also continued to host all of our events on ZOOM, with the exception of Yoga in the Quad. We also offer many of our events via live stream on facebook, youtube or our website for those members who are perhaps less zoom savvy. Additionally, events are closed captioned and re-posted on our youtube channel. Please consider subscribing to our channel: www.mycesax.ca/youtube
Zoom webinar requests are being streamlined through an internal form which also takes into account event promotion strategies. We are currently emailing the membership at least once per month with updates that include opportunities for involvement and advancement, as well as partner content.

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel to get all our videos with captions:
www.mycesax.ca/youtube

Social Media Growth in 2021



Class Representative Program

The Class Representative Program continues to run each semester. During COVID-19, Class Representatives have been recruited through a form available on the CESAX website, and advertised through the e-newsletter, D2L, social media, and some in-person outreach. The success of the Class Representative program has typically depended on in-person outreach and recruitment, which continues to be a barrier to the engagement of this program. CESAX has hosted a virtual Class Representative Information Session to educate students on the program and how to get involved, and will continue to host them each semester. Regular communication continues with Class Representatives to support and get updates on individual projects, new issues that arise, and provide an opportunity to share new ideas that students would like to work on.

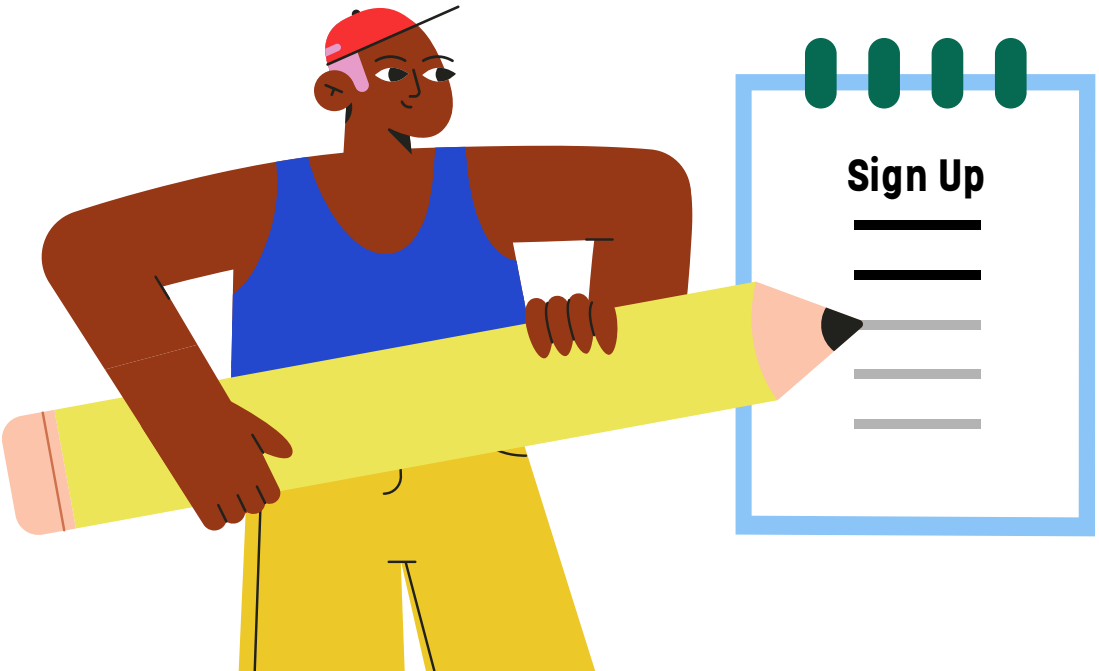
Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program continues to try to find volunteer opportunities for members, including but not limited to hosting events, assisting in organizing events logistics, and occasional in-person outreach opportunities. The program is run through Track-it-Forward, which allows students to sign up for events, log hours, and receive awards. CESAX has held a volunteer training for the 2021 Fall semester, which involved sharing information on volunteer opportunities and an anti-oppression training.

CESAX will continue to host training sessions each semester. We also send weekly emails to registered volunteers outlining future events and opportunities for engagement. The union is planning on holding regular volunteer socials to help foster a friendly and supportive environment.

Sign Up!

Sign up as a Class Rep or a Volunteer at www.mycesax.ca/volunteer



Committees

CESAX has four open Committees that are currently active. All CESAX members are able to attend these meetings. Each committee has an active e-newsletter and meets at least a semester, if not monthly.

The Bylaws and Policy Committee deals with all governance related documentation and the overall organizational structure of CESAX. These documents are public and can be found on our website.

The Events Committee is responsible for all things events at CESAX. A list of upcoming events can also be found on our website and various social media platforms.

The Equity and Campaigns Committee works on social justice and equity initiatives, including events, workshops, lobby documents, institutional advocacy and public campaigns to create social change.

The Continuing Education Advocacy Committee is an ad-hoc committee that looks at identifying concerns and issues facing CE students, and how CESAX can play a larger role in advocating for these issues.

CESAX also continues to run our internal committees for Joint Health & Safety, Finances and Bursary.

Get Updates!

Learn more about our committees and sign up for our newsletters at www.mycesax.ca/committees

Staff Appreciation

The CESAX Executive and Board deeply appreciate the work of the Executive Director and the full time and part time staff who are a team committed to building student power, offering services, and advocating with our members for progressive changes to the university. Thank you to all our staff for your dedicated service to CESAX members.

WHAT TO EXPECT WINTER 2022

Executive Reports

President

I ran for CESAX to join the student movements' long standing goal to break down all barriers to education and advocate for free and accessible post-secondary education. This has been a difficult and exciting year to work at CESAX and we have a lot of work to be proud of, and a lot of work to still do.

Updates:

I have been chairing the X University All-Union Campus Coalition where we discuss issues around health and safety on campus, the Navitas program and labour issues on campus, policy proposals at the Senate and Board of Governors and other items.

I have been representing CESAX at the university's Senate and working to ensure that CE students are heard and respected at the university planning table.

I have been working with our team to develop a Navitas Lobby Document to educate the university and general community on the ethical concerns of for-profit pathway programs. I have been working closely with the Executive Director to oversee the human resources of the organization, including the return to campus planning, bargaining a Collective Agreement and other matters as they arise.

I have been working to support the Executive and Board team on the projects that they have set out since the beginning of their terms.

Upcoming Projects:

I am planning on enhancing the Education for All campaign ahead of the provincial elections, so that we have a strong get-out-the-vote campaign focused on issues and policy possibilities

I am working closely with the volunteer team on proposals to improve the program and create stronger terms of reference.

I am excited to continue working on harm reduction portfolios to envision stronger systems of community care, and stronger campaigns for better public health policy.

Vice-President Equity & Campaigns

My main priority for my term as VP Equity & Campaigns is to create a campus culture of community safety. This has been a particularly difficult couple of years where it is imperative that students are able to support one another and extend empathy to those around them to ensure that basic needs are met. This extends to engaging students in campus issues so that they are aware of the institutional barriers that exist and understand how to mobilize and advocate for change. Some initiatives that I have taken on this front include:

Updates:

- Representing CESAX members on the Executive Committee and Police-Free Campuses Working Group of the Canadian Federation of Students – Ontario
- Making students aware of federal election issues and providing information to aid students with registering to vote
- Creating spaces for neurodivergent students to speak to their experiences and access community support
- Educating the campus on the criminalization of substances and the public health crises that the War on Drugs produces. This includes training students on overdose recognition and response
- Pressuring the University to create more multi-faith prayer rooms and chest-feeding spaces
- Sitting on the X University Medical School Advisory Committee to insure that equity-related content is highlighted in the school’s vision statement and curricula
- Supporting Indigenous students and organizers with educational and community events

Upcoming projects:

- Continuing to work with the harm reduction organizing group to develop as many training opportunities as possible, while also shifting attention to public policy ahead of the provincial elections.
- Working with the VP Services & Finances to launch short and long-term supports for Neurodivergent students
- Developing a lobby document for the university and campus community about our biggest issues on campus

Vice-President Services & Finance

I ran for the Vice President of Services and Finance to ensure more equitable services for the demographics of our members who traditionally have less access to services.

Updates:

- I have been planning skills development workshops to provide tools for students to successfully navigate virtual learning platforms and access online services, notably the Navigating Academic Success Series.
- I have been developing neurodivergent support spaces around ADHD and Autism with the VP Equity & Campaigns.
- I have been ensuring equitable financial aid selection process and that members with the most financial needs are supported by funding.
- I have been overseeing and monitoring the monthly financial expenditure of the office. This includes also completing a budget proposal cycle for staff, executives and board members to participate in.
- I have been active in lobbying for International student rights, specifically in supporting the writing of the Navitas Lobby Document.

Upcoming Projects

- We are currently collecting student feedback to assess and determine the gaps in current services. We hope to use this information to improve and create services within the students’ union and general university community.
- I am hoping to host a Continuing Education and Part-time Student Symposium in the Winter Term, with the Canadian Federation of Students
- I am hoping to launch a campaign and strategy for climate justice organizing on campus.

Vice-President Events & Outreach

Updates

- We put on a fantastic lineup of events for Orientation month with a balance of informational and social events. We also attempted an in-person event to determine the feasibility and interest from members.
- We coordinated in-person outreach through September to distribute CESAX materials, information and giveaways.
- We have continued to host regular trivia nights and socials for general members to get involved.
- We have continued to find avenues for collaboration through Pride and Indigenous Histories month, rather than do events on our own.
- We have continued to run the volunteer and class representative program, including semesterly volunteer training. We have developed a time and strategy to standardize and digitalize the program for future executives, staff and volunteers.

Upcoming Projects

In mid-November we will be having a Black History Month Committee Meeting where we will go over the plans and ideas that we are hoping to launch for the period. Our Events Committee meetings will cover a wide range of ideas where we will discuss a lineup for the Winter Term. Our volunteer program will have an enhanced terms of reference and training schedule for more consistency and digital incorporation.

Vice-President Internal

I joined CESAX to work together with like-minded individuals who believe in the voice of the student and advocate for students in any given opportunity. CESAX has proven that they are an organization that rallies around people of different backgrounds, races, ethnicity and is committed to ensuring that life on campus is made a bit easier for everyone.

Updates

- Worked with a dedicated team to ensure that the right Ombudsperson is hired full time to join the University.
- Collaborated with the Students Rights Coordinator to ensure that all governing documents are reviewed, amended and updated as needed.
- Worked on creating new academic and governance policies for this academic year.
- Lobbied the University as different issues arose and attempted to assist by sending letters to the Dean or the University regarding these matters. To date we have sent over half a dozen letters in support of our students to different areas within the University. This is an ongoing project that is addressed as issues arise.
- Assisted with other CESAX portfolios and tasks as they arose, such as sitting on the Bursary Committee.
- Chaired the Bylaws and Policies Committee and produced the bylaw amendments package for the Semi-Annual General Meeting.
- Co-chaired the CE advocacy Committee to ensure that the voices of CE students are heard and that their queries are addressed.

Upcoming Projects

- Review and find new avenues to incorporate student advocacy in part-time degree programs.
- Review policies and bylaws to develop new proposals related to part-time human resources, finances and issues-based policy

Appendix A Meeting Agenda

Semi-Annual General
Membership Meeting

Continuing Education
Students' Association of
X University – CESAX

Date:

Thursday, November 18,
2021, 6:00–8:00pm

Location:

Zoom Room – Student
Campus Centre, 301–
55 Gould St., Toronto,
Ontario

1. Call to Order

2. Welcoming Remarks

- a. Recognition of and Respect for Unceded Traditional Territories of First Nations People
- b. Equity Statement

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes

5. Approval of 2020–21 Auditor's Report

6. Appointment of 2021–22 Auditors

7. Bylaw Amendment 1: Inclusion of RGSU

8. Bylaw Amendment 2: Class Representatives Change

9. Bylaw Amendment 3: TTC Reimbursement

Appendix A Meeting Agenda

Semi-Annual General
Membership Meeting

Continuing Education
Students' Association of
X University – CESAX

Date:

Thursday, November 18,
2021, 6:00–8:00pm

Location:

Zoom Room – Student
Campus Centre, 301–
55 Gould St., Toronto,
Ontario

10. Bylaw Amendment 4: Executive Committee Honoraria

11. General Motion A: University Name Change

12. SAGM Report

13. Announcements

14. Adjournment

Appendix B By-Law Amendments

Fall 2021 Bylaw Amendments

For consideration at November 18, 2021 General
Meeting

A. Inclusion of Graduate Students’ Union

Whereas the Ryerson Graduate Students’ Union
is a recently established central students’ union;
and

Whereas graduate students may enroll in
continuing education courses during their degree;
and

Whereas full-time and party-time graduate
students should have the same rights and
responsibilities as full-time degree students
when taking continuing education courses;
therefore

Be it resolved that **Bylaw I: Definitions** be
amended to read:

**18. “Ryerson Graduate Students’ Union” or
“RGSU” shall refer to the sister students’ union
representing all graduate students enrolled at
Ryerson University.**

19. “Ryerson Students’ Union” or “RSU” shall refer
to the sister students’ union representing all full-
time degree students ~~and all graduate students~~
enrolled at Ryerson University.

Be it further resolved that **Bylaw II: Membership** be
amended to read:

2.1 Membership

F. Members of the Ryerson Students’ Union
(RSU) and the **Ryerson Graduate Students’**

Union (RGSU) who are enrolled in a CESAR–Fee–Assessed Course and pay CESAR compulsory and optional fees will be considered Members, and are entitled to all the services except rights and privileges, section 2.2 a, 2.2 g, 2.2 i;
G. Members of the Ryerson Students’ Union (RSU) **and the Ryerson Graduate Students’ Union (RGSU)** who are enrolled in a CESAR–Fee–Assessed Course and only pay CESAR compulsory fees will be considered Non–Voting Members, and are entitled to all the services in 2.3;

2.8 Membership Fees

a. CESAR membership fees may be set by the members, excluding those who jointly hold membership in the RSU or **RGSU**, of CESAR voting in a referendum provided that sufficient notice has been served as per these By–laws.

2.9 Amount of CESAR Membership Fees

- a. The membership fee shall consist of an amount set by referendum and charged per each enrolled course through the Chang School and charged in each academic session.
- b. The membership fee shall be adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Membership fees may also be set by CESAR members, excluding members who are also RSU or **RGSU** members, voting in a referendum (see By–law X on Referenda).

Be it further resolved that **Bylaw X: Referenda** be amended to read:

10.1 Proclamation of Referenda

- a. One or more members of CESAR may require the Board of Directors to issue a proclamation of referendum, by submitting to the Board of Directors a completed petition in the form prescribed by CESAR, containing the following:
 - ii. At least ten per cent of all current members of CESAR, excluding those members who hold joint membership in the Ryerson Students’ Union (RSU) or the Ryerson Graduate Students’ Union (RGSU);

10.5 Polling Procedure

- B. Each member of CESAR, except those members who also hold membership in the Ryerson Students’ Union **or the Ryerson Graduate Students’ Union (RGSU)**, shall be allowed to cast one (1) secret, non–transferable ballot.
- C. The Referendum Committee shall establish and maintain a register of members of CESAR, excluding those members who also hold membership in the Ryerson Students’ Union **or the Ryerson Graduate Students’ Union (RGSU)**, to be known as the register of electors.

B. By–law III: Class Representatives

Whereas the Class Representative Program is a specific type of volunteer opportunity for students to get involved with CESAX; and

Whereas the Class Representative Program currently requires elections for volunteers to sign up; and

Whereas the Class Representative Program should be amended to reflect digital classrooms, ease of access and communication of information; therefore
Be it resolved that Bylaw III: Class Representatives be amended to read:

3.1 Class Representatives

Each CESAR–Fee–Assessed Course shall be entitled to select up to two (2) Class Representatives. Class Representatives must be **approved through general consensus selected** each academic session by class **announcement agreement** for the class that they represent. The duties and responsibilities of Class Representatives start from **the** date of appointment to the conclusion of the academic session appointed.

In the case where more than two (2) candidates are interested in being a Class Representative, preference shall be given to Full Members as outlined in the Class Representative Policy.

3.2 Duties and Responsibilities of Class Representatives

- Class Representatives are responsible for:
- a. Attending and participating in General Meetings;
 - b. Promoting CESAR campaigns, services, events and programming to members in their class;
 - c. **Collaborating to resolve Forwarding** concerns of the class or individual members of CESAR **with to** the Board of Directors;
 - d. Facilitating surveys and/or feedback for CESAR from students in their class; and
 - e. Volunteering and assisting with the CESAR outreach program or campus events.

3.3 Communication

The Union will communicate with Class Representatives through correspondence via electronic mail (email) or where possible telephone, and it will be considered official notice. E–mail communications via the CESAR account will be the preferred method of

communication.

C. By-law IV: General Meetings

Whereas the TTC tokens are discontinued and replaced with a standard fare therefore;
Be it resolved that Bylaw IV: General Meetings be amended to read:

4.6 Meeting Accommodations

- a. Members, upon request and demonstrated need, can be reimbursed for **two (2) adult fares** ~~up to two (2) TTC tokens~~ per General Members’ Meeting, including the Annual General Meeting or Semi-Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting if they are in attendance. Those members who already have a TTC monthly or weekly pass for the month during which the meeting occurs or week of the meeting are not eligible for reimbursement. Distribution of **TTC fare reimbursement** ~~tokens~~ will be **processed** as per the **TTC Reimbursement** ~~CESAR~~ Policy.
- b. Accessibility requests must be sent via email to the designated CESAR staff member no less than five (5) business days.

D. By-law VII: Executive Committee

Whereas the Executive Committee is comprised of five executive members elected annually;
and

Whereas the Executive Committee is limited to set hours and compensation as defined by the Bylaws; and

Whereas the Executive Committee is made up of current students who often balance other work and personal commitments; and

Whereas the Executive Committee is often expected to complete more hours during busy periods of the year such as Orientation period; and

Whereas Canadian Federation of Students meetings will often be scheduled for 24 to 40 hours in addition to regular work expected to be completed by Executive Committee members; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw VII: Executive Committee be amended to read:

7.2 Responsibilities of the Executive Committee

- a. The President, Vice-President Equity & Campaigns, Vice-President Events & Outreach, Vice-President Internal and Vice-President Services & Finance must work a minimum of **fifteen (15)** ~~twenty (20)~~ to twenty-five (25) hours per week either in the office, undertaking outreach, at sanctioned meetings, or at events of the union. The five (5) Executive positions receive honoraria of \$19 per hour (tied to the Consumer Price Index as of May 1, 2019), plus benefits, to fulfill their respective position requirements as long as the minimum hours have been met (see Policy Manual on Executive Honoraria). **Each Executive Officer may be entitled to up to forty (40) hours per week on which Orientation activities or Canadian Federation of Students meetings fall. Such entitlement may not exceed six (6) weeks for any Executive Member per fiscal year.**
- b. Serve as Directors and Officers of CESAR under the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act;
- c. Carry out all responsibilities and duties of the Board of Directors, in addition to:
- d. Supervise the hiring and dismissal of full-time and part-time staff, and negotiate the Collective Agreements;
- e. Negotiate, review and execute contracts related to management and operations of CESAR;
- f. Be responsible for all matters relating to labour relations, staffing, and any other legal obligations required as the Employer or Officers of the Corporations in the Province of Ontario or Municipality of Toronto.

Non–Bylaw Proposal: University Name Change

Whereas Indigenous students, staff and faculty have called for the name of Ryerson University to be changed due to its namesake Egerton Ryerson and his influence in the establishment of Residential Schools; and

Whereas Indigenous students, staff and faculty called for the university to be called “X University” in lieu of Ryerson University; and

Whereas the CESAX Board of Directors approved a temporary change to the Continuing Education Students’ Association of X University (CESAX) and has communicated such change to the [membership on June 2, 2021](#) and implemented changes via email, website, social media and other areas where applicable; and

Whereas a long–term name change would require approval from the general membership, bylaw amendments, registration with the Not–for–Profit Corporations Act and many other areas; and

Whereas the Ryerson University Board of Governors has decided to change the name of the University and will announce a timeline in Winter 2022; therefore

Be it resolved that the Continuing Education Students’ Association of Ryerson (CESAR) Continue to operate informally as the Continuing Education Students’ Association of X University (CESAX) until a new name of the University is determined; and

Be it further resolved that the students’ union establish a name change committee of the Board to investigate the next steps to implement a name change for the union and the necessary budget and resources to facilitate such a change; and

Be it further resolved that the students’ union submit a letter to the University to say that Indigenous students, faculty, and staff must have determination over the new name of the University, so that student concerns are addressed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Continuing Education Students’ Association of X University – CESAX
Thursday, March 11, 2021, 5:00–7:00pm | Zoom Room

Attendance:

- Abdul Ahmed

Aisa Manjira

Avinandan Kundu

Britney Viechweg

Carol Sutherland

Christine Stolarz

Elaine Ng

Farah Aziz

Hemanshu Bhargav

Janet Rodriguez

Jasdeep Sekhon

Jennifer Dietz

Kanneeisha Thevadasaa

Khalid Ahmed

Maddy Fast

Michael Yoon

Mirza Ahmad

Mohib Malik

Nayema Chowdhury

Noha Farawi
- Olivia McIntosh

Parthiban R.

Pegah Pourtheidari

Ronald Kakooza

Samer Mansour

Sharan Lall

Stefani Murray

Tanzeem Saleha

Tarmanjit Mann

Tasfia Afroz

Virna Deganis

Wajiha Ahmed

Nicole Brayiannis, Chair (Non-Voting)

Amanda Lin, Staff (Non-Voting)

Ayat Rizvi, Staff (Non-Voting)

Corey Scott, Staff (Non-Voting)

Ilhan Farah, Staff (Non-Voting)

Lyndall Musselman, Staff (Non-Voting)

Shahla Navai, Staff (Non-Voting)

Zayd Ghunaim, Staff (Non-Voting)

1. Call to Order 5:03

Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending, and introduced the Chair of the meeting, Nicole Brayiannis, former President of CESAR, and current Deputy Chair Person of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). She said that Brayiannis was an avid advocate for equity, and that during her time with the CFS, had worked to expand the eligibility of the CERB and CESB to include international, part-time, and continuing education students.

Rodriguez announced that the Annual General Membership meeting (AGM) was being livestreamed on Facebook including the candidates’ statements. Once agenda items were addressed however, the livestreaming would end to allow voting members to discuss motions and cast their votes.

2. Remarks from the Chair

Welcome and meeting procedure overview
Brayiannis said she was excited to be back at CESAR to help with the virtual AGM meeting procedure. She noted that the meeting was focused on the annual election of the CESAR Board and the members’ decision on motions presented on the agenda. She explained that while most motions required a simple majority vote, by-law amendments required a two-third majority vote in order to pass.

As the highest decision-making authority of the organization, Brayiannis encouraged members to participate in the process. She explained that for each motion presented a mover and a seconder were required to open the motion for discussion prior to going to a vote. Voting poles would show up on the zoom screen for 30 seconds for members to cast their votes. A speakers’ list could be created in the Zoom chat for her to follow if participants wanted to speak to a motion.

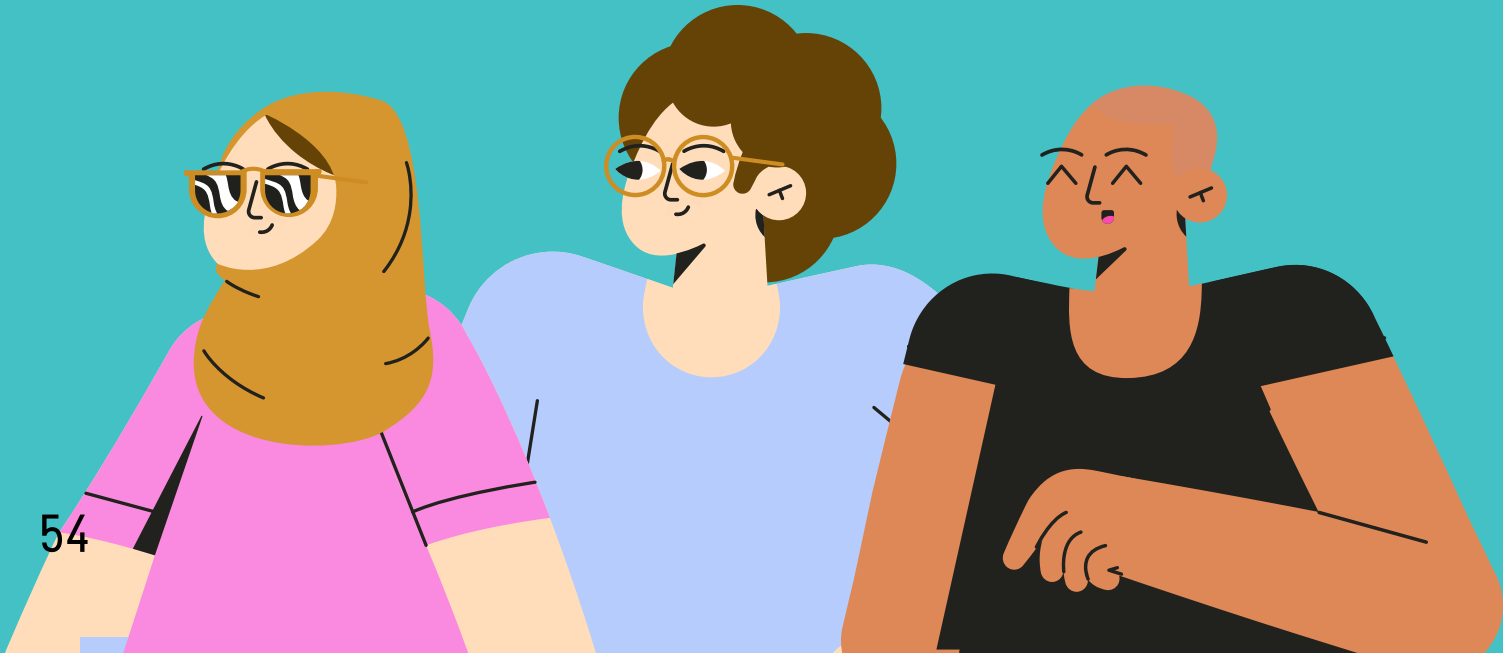
3. Recognition of and Respect for Unceded Traditional Territories of First Nations People Equity Statement

Both statements were read by Fast, Vice President Equity and Campaigns
Approval of Agenda

Motion: AGM-21/03/11-01

Be it resolved that the AGM agenda be approved as presented.

MOVED: RODRIGUEZ SECONDER: DIETZ RESULT: CARRIED



4. Elections Candidates Forum

Farah, Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for CESAR elections, announced that nine candidates were running for board positions in 2021. She noted that advance polls had been set up every day for three days prior to the AGM meeting on Zoom, since in-person voting during COVID-19 had not been possible. She explained each voter was put in Zoom break-out rooms with a poll clerk and a privacy officer to cast their votes. She said that the same process would be continued during the AGM meeting, and members could vote until 7 p.m. by putting their names in the chat box once the candidates’ statements concluded. She gave each candidate two minutes to present their agenda.

Fast, introduced herself as a Politics and Sociology student at the Chang School, running for the position of President. She said she was working alongside the CESAR executive team as Vice President of Equity and Campaigns, allocating emergency student funding for Chang School students, advocating for more funding for post-secondary education and the reduction and eventual elimination of tuition fees for domestic and international students. Sitting on various University Committees, she had made sure the voices of CESAR members were heard. She successfully advocated for the removal of ‘The Use and Possession of Prohibited Substances’ from the students’ code of non- academic conduct. She said that with the help of the staff and community members, CESAR had been able to host online events, workshops, and socials to build community and battle the stresses of isolation. CESAR had also offered educational opportunities around important equity and social justice issues such as houselessness, transit fares, colonialism, and support of survivors of sexual violence. If elected, she said that with the experience she had gained in her role of Vice President of Equity and Campaigns, she would continue to fight for social justice and equity, expand digital services, and increase part-time undergraduate, continuing education, and certificate students’ access to the Ryerson’s mental health and wellness initiatives.

Parthiban R noted that he had served as the CESAR Certificate Director since the summer of 2020, and was running for the same position with the Solidarity Team. As a newcomer to Canada in the Spanning the Gaps program to obtain the equivalency of his foreign education in Canada, he had advocated for certificate students, and had been a member of the Finance Committee to add his voice to ensure that the funding CESAR received was equitably allocated. As a member of the Bursary Selection Committee, he said that at times it had been distressing for him to read the additional information applicants provided on their application.

Ng said that she was taking a Mental Health Certificate course at the Chang School and was running for the position of Vice President Services and Finance. She stated that the past year had been challenging, juggling her work and school to improve her academic standing.

She said she understood the financial pressures students were under, and would increase grant amounts and numbers, and with the help of the CESAR team, would present financial workshops to help students maneuver their finances.

Farah announced that not all board members had been able to attend the AGM meeting, but that their statements were available online. She said she would now open two Zoom polling stations for members to vote for the candidates throughout the night.

Brayiannis asked voting members who were watching the proceedings being livestreamed on Facebook to rejoin the formal meeting to cast their votes on motions presented.

5. Bylaw Amendment A: Force Majeure

Motion: AGM-21/03/11-02

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has indicated a necessity for provisions within the bylaws of CESAR to address situations outside the control of the organization; and

Whereas force majeure is understood as unforeseeable circumstances that prevent a party from fulfilling a contract; and

Whereas current bylaws regulate the basic governance of general meetings and elections; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students and other students’ unions have put similar motions on their general meeting agendas to incorporate force majeure clauses to cover certain sections of their bylaws; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw Section 12 be amended to include:

12.3 Force Majeure

In the event of force majeure, sections of the Bylaws and Operations Policy related to the structure and logistics of general meetings and elections covered in Bylaw IV: General Meetings and Bylaw IX: Elections may be temporarily suspended by the Board of Directors.

MOVED: SUTHERLAND SECONDER: VIECHWEG RESULT: CARRIED

Sutherland explained that this procedure had been followed by CESAR throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and that this by-law would formalize the process when facing unforeseen circumstances.

6. Bylaw Amendment B: Contingency Fund

Motion: AGM-21/03/11-03

Whereas CESAR is currently required to maintain an operational reserve of six months; and
Whereas recent issues regarding the Student ‘Choice’ Initiative, Ryerson vs. Ryerson Students’ Union dispute and concerns about ongoing enrollment have posed concerns over the need for a long-term safety fund to maintain CESAR operations; therefore
Be it resolved that Bylaw Section 8.6 be amended to read:

8.6 Reserve Fund
CESAR must maintain a reserve fund equal to the basic minimum operating expenses of the organization for 6 18 months to ensure the continuation of CESAR in the event that it is prevented from obtaining or utilizing member fees for any reason.

MOVED: SUTHERLAND SECONDER: AHMED RESULT: CARRIED

Sutherland informed members that during Covid-19 enrolments had increased, although it was not a given that this trend would continue. Having received additional funding this year, it had been decided to increase the reserve fund from six (6) months to 18 months, which would allow staff to continue working, and in turn would allow CESAR to serve students for a longer period of time, should funding be reduced or ceased in the future.

7. Bylaw Amendment C: Executive Committee

Motion: AGM-21/03/11-04

Whereas the CESAR Executive Committee is currently made up of three executives: President, Vice-President Services & Finance and Vice-President Equity & Campaigns; and
Whereas prior to the Student ‘Choice’ Initiative, the CESAR Executive Committee was made up of five executives: President, Vice-President Services & Finance, Vice-President Internal, Vice-President Equity & Campaigns and Vice-President Events & Outreach; and
Whereas the reduction of the Executive positions has put an unrealistic expectation on three executives that is better suited for five executives; and

Whereas the following proposal also includes a reduction in maximum hours; and
Whereas the following proposal is a restoration of the bylaws from 2019; therefore
Be it resolved that the CESAR Executive Committee be made up of five Executive Committee members; and

Be it resolved that these changes be reflected in subsequently reflected in Bylaws (to see tracked changes please refer to Appendix A):
The Entirety of Bylaw VII: Executive Committee
5.1 Membership of the Board
5.10 Conflict of Interest
8.3 Signing Officer

MOVED: RODRIGUEZ SECONDER: PARTHIBAN RESULT: CARRIED

Rodriguez said that CESAR was in a position to revert to the 2019 executive numbers, which at the time were reduced from five (5) executives to three (3) executive members for cost saving measures under threat of the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) and the uncertainty of receiving adequate funding. She said that even though the SCI was struck down by the courts, it had been appealed by the Ford government, and was currently in the courts again pending a decision.

She said that the workload of the three remaining executives on the CESAR Board had necessitated that they work full-time hours instead of the prescribed 30 hours per week. K. Ahmed asked whether some of these full-time hours were related to other employment. Rodriguez explained that the full-time hours were spent to serve the CESAR membership. She said adding two executives to the team would allow each of the executives to keep their hours of work to the prescribed number of hours in the By-Laws.

Dietz added that she had recently joined a CESAR committee and had witnessed the amount of work the executives put in to achieve their goal. She said the increased number of executives would put more ideas on the table to provide more quality services that would benefit the membership.

8. Bylaw Amendment D: Board of Director Honoraria

Motion: AGM-21/03/11-05

Whereas the CESAR Board of Directors currently receive no honorarium in fulfilling their duties;

Whereas there has been much discussion about accessibility, inequities and representation trends of relying on unpaid work; and

Whereas by providing a small honorarium, Board members are able to access CESAR Board opportunities without being expected to miss meals, take time off work and receive some

type of honorarium in line with the expectations of the role;

Whereas the CESAR Board of Directors are not able to access financial aid resources such as the Emergency Grant and CESAR Bursary; and

Whereas the honorarium is not meant to be pay in lieu of work but as an accessibility feature and/or for low-income and marginalized people to access the CESAR Board of Directors; therefore

Be it resolved that Bylaw 5.1 be amended as follows to be implemented May 1, 2021; and

Be it further resolved that the Bylaws & Policies Committee be tasked with revising the Board of Director Honorarium Operational Policy with a one-year review period.

5.1 Membership of the Board

The Board is comprised of nine (9) members duly elected from the membership at the Annual General Meeting or at a Membership Meeting should a by-election be required. Board position terms shall be held from May 1 to April 30. If Board members satisfy the duties and responsibilities listed below, they will be eligible for an honorarium of \$50 per month which shall be paid out three times during the fiscal year (see Policy Manual on Board of Directors’ Honouraria).

MOVED: RODRIGUEZ SECONDER: STOLARZ RESULT: CARRIED

Rodriguez explained that CESAR wanted to recognize the work the Board members were doing on behalf of the membership, and, therefore, show the Union’s appreciation through the allocation of a small honourarium,

Brayiannis advised that this last motion concluded the voting portion of the meeting, and thanked members again for attending and participating in the process.

Rodriguez also thanked members, and reminded them to make sure they received their gift cards by providing the information requested. She explained that the gift cards were in lieu of the hot meal that CESAR usually provided during in-person general membership meetings.

9. AGM Report

Rodriguez thanked the board for their worked and said that at times they had to work with a limited capacity until the by-election in the fall, when the current board had been elected. She said that in response to Covid-19 all services had been moved online. She said

she was proud that unlike its sister union, the Ryerson Students’ Union, CESAR had not laid off any of their staff members, and instead had found more opportunities for them to serve members.

She said the Union had advocated for CESAR representation on the Ryerson Joint Health and Safety Committee and had contributed \$10,000 to the Chang School Emergency Student Funding initiative. This had been especially important for CESAR since the general Ryerson emergency grant was mostly available to full-time students.

Rodriguez encouraged students to subscribe to CESAR social media channels, come to meetings, and to contact the Board and staff to bring their ideas and input to the table. Fast talked about campaigns having moved online with the Equity and Campaigns committee taking place monthly, attendance at the virtual Lobby Week organized by the CFS to lobby federal and provincial members of parliament to fully fund education, frieze interest on student loans, end differential fees for international students and to include them in the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), as well as to increase funding for mental health support.

On the University level, CESAR and the All Union Campus Coalition released a call to action for better mental health support, better working conditions for staff, the hiring of more racialized instructors, and accessibility support.

Fast said that CESAR was continuing to collect signatures to remove the Egerton Ryerson statue, was opposing the Ryerson University’s alliance with the Navitas Corporation to recruit and exploit international students, and had run campaigns including, I Stand with Carol, Harm Reduction, and No Cops on Campus campaigns, and the Orange Shirt campaign against campus racism.

She also drew the attention of the attendees to the many events that had been organized with the help of full and part-time staff focusing on trivia and game nights, leadership, mentorship, and social justice issues, alongside advocacy and grade standing appeal workshop, which could be watched on the CESAR website, on Facebook, and the CESAR’s YouTube channel.

Sutherland announced that the amount of bursaries had been increased and a total of \$200,000 given out to students, and that the Emergency grant disbursements had reached \$25,000, over 3.5 times the amount given out in previous years. Sutherland explained students would be consulted through a survey, to expand the students’ health and dental plan, and that CESAR would conduct negotiations and evaluate adding psychologist, psychotherapist, counselling and social worker sessions to the existing coverage to start in September of 2021.

Sutherland enumerated donations to community members, which could be found in the AGM Package, which included Social Justice Week, Justice for Regis, and the Bond Place Emergency Shelter, among others.

10. Announcements

Ghunaim enumerated the many events that had been planned, and encouraged students to check out CESAR social media platforms and YouTube channel. He invited students to attend the By-Laws, Equity and Campaigns, Finance, and the newly created Student Advocacy committees, which served to bring new ideas to the table and raise issues to bring to the attention of the Chang School and the Ryerson University.

He also spoke about the volunteer and the class representative programs, which provided learning opportunities for participant, and tracked hours to award them.

11. Adjournment 6:22 pm

Motion: AGM-21/03/11-06

MOVED: NOHA SECONDER: FAST RESULT: CARRIED

Appendix C

Financial Statements

The Financial Statements (2020–2021) can be viewed here: <https://mycesax.ca/about/general-members-meetings/>