

CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR AT LARGE



Cade Desjarlais

Hello UBCO! My name's Cade Desjarlais and I'm a 1st Year Arts student looking to be one of your Directors-at-Large. Despite being a 1st year student, I feel I am more than well equipped to enter this job on the student body's behalf. I have extensive experience within community leadership, social justice, and mental-health advocacy. I've attended international leadership conferences, been a member of the Advisory Council at the Foundry, a member of Jack.org, and VP of the largest grad class in BC, being recognized for this as a Presidential Scholar here at UBCO. Community participation and improvement has always been my priority and there is no greater opportunity to affect change other than right now during these unprecedented times. Mental-health advocacy is a passion of mine because I understand that our mental wellbeing is the basis of all our successes. I feel there has been a severe lack of outreach from the University and the Student Union. Our mental health is not something to be met with proposed tuition increases with nothing to show for them. We must transparently work together in partnership with all students, to not only move forward, but grow. This period of the pandemic will prove to be a vitally important transition. Allowing a 1st year student to be on the Board of Directors will permit a representative to bring forward a long-term vision and gain the valuable experience early on needed to create a university experience worth the all-nighters, countless zooms, and awkward breakout-rooms.

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Harsimar Singh

My name is Harsimar Singh and I was born on 7th July 2001 in New Delhi, India. Most of my childhood was spent in a small town in Punjab but for the duration of my teen years, my family moved to Gurgaon, a metropolitan city near New Delhi. This shift was challenging but the competition I discovered here truly got the best out in me.

During my early years, I planted seeds into various sports to build a strong root in fitness and a healthy lifestyle which further helped me to develop many life skills. I have completed my high school diploma from K R Mangalam World School. In the school year 2017-18, I got elected as the discipline advisor of the school student council.

I was born in a financially middle-class family and studying in an internationally well-reputed institution was a dream for me. I am very thankful for my parents to invest their savings into my education. At the University of British Columbia, I have actively participated in many SUO club-related events and I am the executive team member for Computer Science Course Union (First-year representative), UBCO Cricket Club (Events Manager), and UBCOSPC (Financial Advisor).

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Ayush Pratap

Hey guys! I am Ayush Pratap, an international student from India. I am a 3rd-year psychology major, here at UBC Okanagan. You can often find me studying on campus, in the Well or the Commons. People find me approachable and as your Director at Large, I will be available to you at any time during my candidacy. I decided to run for Director at Large primarily because, in the past 2 years, I noticed that the Students' Union here wasn't as interactive with all the students as it could have been. If elected, I would like to bring about change that benefits all students here. I would also advocate for more transparency in the working of the SUO. One thing I haven't seen a lot of around our campus are substance use programs. I believe these would be instrumental, especially programs based around the stigma of substance abuse. In the past year, the current pandemic has definitely taken its toll on all of our social and personal lives and although the mental health programs at UBC-O are great, I will put more emphasis on online programs for the students who are not here in Kelowna. Lastly, I promise to work diligently towards the betterment of your university experience.

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Kai Rogers

Hello, my name is Kai Rogers, I am running to continue to be one of your Student's Union Directors at Large. I believe that I am well suited to continue in this position for several reasons. I have already served one year on the SUO board and I have the experience needed to keep advocating for our members. As part of my role within the Oversight Committee I stressed the need for the SUO to have greater accountability. I was able to help implement changes that greatly increased our accountability, something our organization struggled with in the past.

During my year with the SUO, I forged relationships with other SUO members, UBC staff, and students. My candid approach, and willingness to listen has helped me to create strong working partnerships. On top of that, I have lived in the Okanagan Valley for 22 years, and understand the culture, strengths, and needs of the community. As well, my experience as a former international student provides me with a great appreciation for our international community. I feel that I have a solid understanding of the unique perspectives of both communities and how to best balance the needs of each group.

I hope that you will give me the opportunity to serve on the SUO board for another year. I genuinely believe that while I have created meaningful change, there is more work that needs to be done, and I know that I have the skillset and desire to make it happen. Thank you! Vote for Kai, He's your guy

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Chanidu Gamage

My name is Chanidu Gamage. I am a first-year economics student, and I am so excited to stand for us on the SUO! I was born in Sri Lanka and immigrated to Canada at 9 months old. For most of my life, I have been living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I will strive to advocate for issues, such as better internship and career opportunities, sensible drug policy, and sexual assault on campus. With regards to student life, my goal is simple, to make our time at UBC the best four years of our lives.

I currently have two leadership roles in my community that make me a strong candidate for this position. I am a Member of the Halifax West Constituency Youth Council and an advisory group for the Halifax Regional Municipality. In these roles, I advocate for youth issues at the Federal and Municipal levels respectively. Outside of these responsibilities, I volunteer with my local Scout group, working with youth aged 5-7, and a not-for-profit that supplies breakfast programs at schools across the province. Before the pandemic, I was fighting at the international level in taekwondo and have won many medals at both the International and National level.

If you want to reach out to me, I would love to chat! Feel free to shoot me an email or dm. My email is csg@student.ubc.ca, my Instagram is [@votechanidu](https://www.instagram.com/votechanidu). I hope I can count on your support in the upcoming election!

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Priscilla Uribe

I am Priscilla Uribe, and I am running for the position of Director at Large. I am in my third year of undergraduate studies (second year at UBC) and in the process of becoming an Economics major. During my experience as a Student at Large in the UBCSUO campaigns committee, I realized that the UBCSUO has the potential to make a real change for student members (all of you!). As the Public Relations Executive of UNICEF on campus, I am very passionate about social service and encouraging students to get involved. In my experience as a climate ambassador for UBC's climate emergency research last year, I also strengthened my passion for on-campus environmental campaign lobbying. As your Director at Large, I will continue my work in the campaigns committee with the following: make education more affordable for students through provincial campaigns like the Open Educational Resources and Fairness for International Students and continue to advocate for environmentally sustainable solutions on campus. Finally, in my free time, I enjoy singing, going for nature walks, and doing art to raise awareness of gender inequality.

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Jaanvi Shah

My name is Jaanvi Shah and I am very excited to be running for the position of Director at Large. I am currently a third-year management student minoring in Economics. I was born in India but have lived in Japan my whole life (I like to call myself Japindian). Exposure to an international environment as a third-culture kid has allowed me to see myself through others. Being a student myself, I understand the stress that comes with balancing your personal and professional life, especially with the ongoing pandemic. Truthfully, when I first time came to Kelowna, I had a hard time connecting with others. After making friends, I still find it a challenge to create real connections among the student body, and an even bigger challenge for the UBCO administration to reach this student body. This is the reason why I decided to run for this position. My core objective would be to listen to what we as students are facing and act on that.

Apart from my role as a candidate, I enjoy meeting new people, spending time with my friends, listening to music, and trying out new things. Most people would describe me as down to earth and someone who goes with the flow I'm passionate about mental health and would like to incorporate a mixture of my management skills and mental health in the future.