

SMUSA President's Report

Shiray Tan, President & CEO

Dean Searches

SMUSA has actively represented students in the dean searches, with one search currently nearing its conclusion. We have voiced students' concerns and conducted one-on-one meetings with the candidate from Sobey School of Business. Our commitment remains steadfast in advocating for the student community, and we aspire to see individuals appointed to these positions who prioritize student welfare. We hope to see student focused leaders in these crucial positions.

Annual General Meeting

SMUSA will be having our Annual General Meeting on April 2, 5pm in McNally Theatre Auditorium. This will be an evening filled with celebration and reflection, marking the conclusion of a rocking and successful year. There will be cash prizes for students to win, free food, as well as awards for our societies. Join us as we wrap up another remarkable year at SMUSA!

Societies Update

We've made significant strides in reducing bank statement fees, with plans underway to streamline access to online bank statements, effectively eliminating statement fees altogether. Although nothing is certain, we promise to keep advocating for what's most accessible for our societies. Furthermore, we remain committed to advocating for our students regarding banking fees, striving towards a future where these fees are entirely removed. Together, we will continue to push for initiatives that prioritize the welfare of our students.

In addition, we engaged with our societies during our last society roundtable to consult them regarding the new society board in Loyola. Together, we have decided that every society will be given a small portion of the board, which will be regularly updated. Societies will be given a form to submit their content.

Lastly, we have also built an elections guide for societies to increase transparency, provide autonomy, and give clarity to societies on how they may conduct elections. As we approach the final months of our academic year, we wish all society leaders the best in their elections process.

Thank you to all of our society leaders. You are the life of Saint Mary's University.

Husky Patrol

Progress continues with the implementation of online booking options for the Husky Patrol. While deliberations on feasible solutions persist, we invite all students to participate in our

survey to help us better understand your needs. Your input will be invaluable as we strive to tailor our services to best serve our members' interests.

Vice President Positions

The selection process for the Vice President positions for the upcoming academic year (2024-2025) at SMUSA is underway. We extend our best wishes to all applicants and eagerly anticipate the appointments.

Executive Team Transition

As we enter the final stretch of our tenure at SMUSA, the executive team is diligently planning for a seamless transition to incoming members. The official transition day is scheduled for April 29, 2024, with invitations already extended to the incoming president. Once the official hiring is done, the incoming executives will also be shadowing the current executives as part of the transition. We are committed to ensuring continuity within our organization and look forward to witnessing the achievements of our successors.

Student Leadership Recognition Award

On March 20, SMUSA collaborated with Career & Experiential Learning at SMU to present the Student Leadership Recognition Awards. This initiative aims to acknowledge students who exemplify leadership qualities within the Saint Mary's University community and beyond. Since its inception in 2012, up to three students from each faculty (Arts, Science, Sobey School of Business, and Graduate Studies) are honored annually.

Budget Consultation

In light of the challenges facing the post-secondary education sector, SMUSA recently participated in consultations regarding the university's budget for the upcoming year. We have consistently communicated our students' priorities to our administration, focusing on key concerns such as tuition and financial aid, housing, and mental health. These concerns were voted upon by our members earlier this year.

Indigenous and Black Student Advisor Update

After extensive advocacy efforts, the first round of interview process for Indigenous and Black Student Advisor roles has concluded. We hope that job offers will be extended by the end of this month, with potential announcements of new hires in early April. These roles are crucial in supporting our student community, and we will keep advocating to ensure this support is provided to our students.

Ramadan Month Dockside Food

After months of advocacy, SMUSA is delighted by the progress towards providing more equitable food options for our students fasting during the month of Ramadan. Instead of packaged meals as in previous years, students on the meal plan are now eligible to have dinner to break their fast in the Loyola Private Dining Room (LA298). We are very proud of this achievement and will continue to fight for all of our students' needs.