



# **STUDENTS' UNION OF VANCOUVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



**2024 - 2025**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



# REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, British Columbia Federation of Students Local 16  
August 1, 2024 – July 31, 2025

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## Executive Summary

### Campaigns

- Promotion of the BCFS Campaign Rise Up through tabling and asking members to send pre-written emails to the Ministry of Post Secondary Education and Future skills calling to:
  - Increase funding for institutions and secure a progressive funding model that provides stability and accounts for inflation
  - Freeze and progressively reduce tuition and other user fees.
  - Have international tuition fee increases capped at 2%
  - Increase funding for the BC Access Grant
- Promotion of BC Campus Open Education Resources campaign
- Connecting with members on Consent Culture and the importance of consent in relationships

### Government Relations

- Met with MLA Joan Philips to discuss issues of affordability, student work hours, and the need for increased funding to Post Secondary institutions
- Presented to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance to request:
  - Strengthening of the Tuition Fee Limit Policy
  - An increase to 75% government funding of Post Secondary Institutions

### College Relations

- Successfully lobbied VCC to only increase International Student tuition fees by 2% in 2025-26
- Presented annual Budget Consultation to request:
  - A cap on International Student Fee increases of 2%
  - Expand affordable food options on campus
  - Reinstate and expand IT Help Desk
  - Enhance Study Space and Library Facilities

### Campus Life & Events

- Held over 20 events including
  - Welcomes days at the start of each semester
  - Stress Busters events during exam periods
  - Convocation celebrations

### Internal Affairs & Finance

- Amended Bylaws to improve participation in Board of Directors Elections
- Moved Board member compensation into Bylaws for increased transparency
- Adopted term limits for board members
- Invested \$500,000 in long term Investment portfolio

### Services

- Created new Professional Development Fund
- Significant increased use in Student Activity Fund
- Supported over 100 members in filing taxes.

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## Campaigns

### Provincial Campaigns

#### Rise Up

The goals of the Rise Up campaign are to:

- Increase funding for institutions and secure a progressive funding model that provides stability and accounts for inflation
- Freeze and progressively reduce tuition and other user fees.
- Have international tuition fee increases capped at 2%
- Increase funding for the BC Access Grant
- Garner media about the cost of education and;
- Lobby government by meeting with local Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Rise Up Campaign was first introduced to our members through BCFS Instagram posts. The campaign was presented to members during Winter Welcome Back Week in January 2025 at Broadway and Downtown campus, members learned more about the campaign and the first step of sending an email to their local MLA. In March 2024, Rise Up campaigning was done at both campuses.

#### Open Textbooks Now!

The goals of the Open Textbooks Now! campaign are to:

- Educate faculty and students about open educational resources (OER) and demonstrate support for adoption, and creation, of more OER and;
- Create and share content for Open Access Week and Open Education Week

Open Textbooks Now! campaign was presented and highlighted to members during Open Education Resource Week from March 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Members did an online interactive myth busting activity where they had to guess the cost of textbooks. On social media, posts from different organizations such as the BCFS and BCcampus were shared to members.

### Local Campaigns

#### Period Promise

The goals of the Period Promise campaign are:

- The cost-free provision of menstrual products in all washrooms on campus paid for by the College and;
- The cost-free provision of menstrual products in all washrooms in all public buildings in the province

#### Consent Culture

Consent Culture was presented to members throughout the year through social media, with posts from local organizations being shared on SUVCC's Instagram story. Tabling was done in February during Valentines Week to highlight the significance of consent. Many international students did not know what consent was and how it can be practiced. During tabling, members were asked "what are some ways you practice consent" and members posted their answer on a white board.

#### International Women's Day

For International Women's Day, the Women Students' Representative held an open event to all members at Downtown campus and Broadway campus. Students were asked to write a letter to a woman in their life that inspires them. The event also had information about notable and inspiration women in history.

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## Government Relations

### Provincial Government Relations

#### Meetings with Government

##### January 2025

Board members and staff had an opportunity to meet with MLA Joan Phillip of Vancouver - Mount Pleasant, to discuss the challenges faced by post-secondary students. The topics of discussion were affordability in the province, working hours for students, and the need for funds to support post-secondary institutions.

##### May 2025

Director of Internal Affairs Repaja presented to the BC Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services and highlighted how Post-Secondary Education is not a cost, but an investment. Repaja spoke on the collective student struggle and the need to strengthen the tuition limit policy, as well as restoring public funding to cover at least 75% of Institutional Operating Budgets.

## College Relations

### College Governance

#### Board of Governors

In 2023 The IRCC significantly decreased the number of Study Visas being approved as well as which programs were eligible for those visas. This led to institutions such as VCC reviewing many of the programs offered to International Students and revising them to ensure that these programs continued to be eligible as per the IRCC guidelines. Some of these revisions were significant enough that VCC received approval from the Ministry to increase the tuition fee above the 2% limit. This is something the Union always pushes back on wherever possible. However this year the Board of Governors unanimously voted in favour of all proposed tuition fee increases. In September the Board of Governors voted to increase both domestic and international tuition by 2% starting August 2025 and to increase international tuition up to 5% in August 2026. The Union has continuously lobbied that international student fees increases should be capped at 2%.

#### Budget Consultation

The Union ran its third Budget Consultation with members, asking them about their current situation as students, while inquiring about useful or desired services on campus. From this consultation a report was produced with a list of 4 recommendations which were presented to the Chief Financial Officer of VCC ahead of the Board of Governors approving the 2025/26 Budget. The recommendations were:

1. Cap International Fee increases at 2%
2. Expand Affordable Food Options
3. Reinstatement and Expand IT Help Desk Services
4. Enhance Study Space and Library Facilities

See Appendix A for the full report.

### Other College Committees and Initiatives

#### SUVCC sits on the following College Committees

- Accessibility Committee
- Administration Policy Committee
- AI Working Group
- Curriculum Committee
- Education Policy Committee
- Education Quality Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

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- Equity Spaces Sub-Committee
- Gender-Based Violence Education and Prevention Committee
- Mental Health & Well-Being Steering Committee
- Operations Council

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## Campus Life & Events

### Events

#### 2024 FALL EVENTS

##### SUVCC Fall Welcome Days September 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union held a large Fall welcome day, with food, games, beverages and a 360 photobooth. The event was designed to create a sense of community on campus at the beginning of the new semester. The Students' Union invited departments of the College and vendors to join (Rexall, Evo), with the goal of providing both fun and information.

##### Diwali – October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union and International Education Department celebrated Diwali at both campuses, giving out curry, naan, and chai to members, faculty and staff. The Students' Union provided information about Diwali and its significance with an action item where members would write messages of love and good wishes and a chance to win a prize pack. There was also a dance floor where many of the members were dancing and having fun.

##### Board Games Bash November 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union held Board Games Bash at both campuses, playing games such as hues & cues, Pictionary, Mario Kart, Uno, Jenga and playing cards.

##### Fall convocation November 28<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union participated in the celebration of the members who attended the Fall Convocation. The Students' Union had a photobooth for graduating members to take photos with their classmates and family members. The Students' Union also gave out graduation buttons and swag.

##### Holiday Cheer – December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union wanted to spread holiday cheer and support members going into finals for the end of the semester. The Students' Union provided hot chocolate, chocolate kisses, candy canes, and baked goods. The Students Union also had tables set up for creating holiday cards, ornaments, holiday buttons, a photobooth with Santa and a table promoting the SUVCC AGM.

##### Holiday Market – December 12<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union participated in the annual holiday market at VCC, giving out hot chocolate, holiday chocolates, and candy canes.

##### Volunteer appreciation – December 13<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union wanted to thank the volunteers that participated in this year's events. An email went out to all who participated, giving them a chance to spin the wheel and win various prizes from the Students' Union, including SUVCC Swag holiday chocolates and candy. Pizza was also ordered to thank them for their valuable time.

#### 2025 WINTER EVENTS

##### Hibernation Hangout – January 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union held Welcome back events at both campuses, celebrating the start of the semester, giving out relevant information and swag to members. The event included movies, snacks, and arts and crafts and had sponsors like Evo, Costco, and Rexall.

##### Breakfast Bars

The Students' Union held a breakfast bar in the office space in the Broadway campus. This was one of the first times the Students' Union held a breakfast bar and it was met with enthusiasm. The breakfast bar included cereal, granola bars and other small snacks. Many members came by to pick up breakfast and learn about the Students' Union.

##### Lunar New year – January 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union celebrated Lunar New Year on both campuses. The International Education department also took part, providing fortune cookies, and spring rolls made by the Asian culinary department. Board members handed out lucky red packets

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that contained lucky candy and well wishes to the membership. Members could learn about Lunar New Year and their Zodiac sign.

## International Cafe – February 20<sup>th</sup> & March 4<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union held an international cafe to give students from different cohorts and groups a chance to meet on campus, share information, and hang out with board members. Sandwiches and beverages were provided. Ice breakers were available for attendees. Engagement at these events was quite limited, with few students showing interest in this type of event.

## Stress Busters – March 17<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union held a stress buster event on St. Patrick's Day, handing out green donuts and providing information about mental health and stress support.

## Board Games Night – March 25<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union hosted a board games night at Broadway campus. Pizza and refreshments were provided.

## Campus Carnival – April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Students' Union held a Semester End Carnival to celebrate members hard work and dedication to the school semester. The carnival included pizza, slushies, various sponsors, a photobooth, and an array of arcade games. Members enjoyed this events, especially the diversity of games.

## 2025 SPRING EVENTS

### Summer Welcome Tabling – May 12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

The Student's Union welcomed members taking classes in the summer semester with snacks, and information about the Student's Union and the services it provides. Board members also gave out lanyards, phone wallets, pens, highlighters, post it notes, water bottles and handbooks.

### Board Games Nights – May 20<sup>th</sup> June 17<sup>th</sup> July 15<sup>th</sup> July 22<sup>nd</sup>

The Students' Union hosted board games night at Broadway and Downtown campuses.

### Summer Convocation – July 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Students' Union participated in the celebration of the members who attended the Summer Convocation. The Students' Union had a photobooth for graduating members to take photos with their classmates and family members. The Students' Union also gave out graduation buttons and swag.



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## Internal Affairs & Finances

### Governance

#### REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

##### BC Societies Act

The Students' Union maintains compliance with the College and Institute Act in order to ensure that its fees are collected by VCC. The Students' Union was in compliance with the Act through the 2024-25 year.

##### College & Institute Acts

The Students' Union operates under the Societies Act of British Columbia and remained in compliance with the Act through the 2024-25 year.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Union held its Annual General Meeting on December 5, 2024 at the Downtown Campus. The meeting was quorate. The members approve three significant changes to the Union's Bylaws:

1. Moving three board positions into internally elected portfolio positions and adding 4 Director At Large positions.
2. Adding a term limit of 4 years to members serving on the Board of Directors
3. Moving a policy on board member compensation into the bylaws.

A full explanation of these changes can be found in Appendix B. Members received the 2023-24 Annual Report.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS AND ORIENTATION

The Annual Board of Directors election ran from October 2- 4, 2024 and was held using Simply Voting. 33 candidates ran for 12 of the 13 vacant positions, and 1474 ballots were cast. 7 candidates were disqualified. No candidate ran for the Indigenous Students' Representative position.

A board orientation was held on October 30. Sessions held at the meeting taught directors about the Students' Union's structure and finances, the legal responsibilities of directors, labour relations, and the regular responsibilities of directors among other things.

#### POLICY AND BYLAW UPDATES

##### Bylaw Updates

- Bylaw V: Board Compensation added, all subsequent bylaws renumbered accordingly
- Bylaw VI: Board of Directors of the Union amended
- Bylaw IX: Duties and Responsibilities of Individual Board Members amended
- Bylaw X: Executive Portfolio was amended

##### Policy Updates

- Operations Policy 10.01: Elections amended
- Finance Policy 20.03: Board Member Compensation amended
- Services Policy 30.03: Professional Development Fund adopted
- Campus Life Procedure 40.01-01: Student Activity Fund Administration Adopted

### Staffing

#### REGULAR STAFF AND STAFFING CHANGES

The Union currently employs 6 regular staff.

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## Financial Management

### AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 2022-23 Audited Financial Statement

The 2022-23 audit took place in October 2024. The Audited Financial Statements will be presented to the general membership at the AGM on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### Investment Portfolio

In August, 2024 the Union opened an investment portfolio through Vancity Investment Management, with an initial deposit of \$500,000. The purposes of this investment as outlined in Finance Policy 20.02 are to:

- a) Maintain purchasing power, thus beating inflation
- b) Grow funds for future projects.

The Union has ensured that approximately \$1,000,000 is kept in its banking accounts to provide safety and security for overall funds.

### DUES COLLECTION

The Students' Union collects its fees through automatic assessment and collection by the Vancouver Community College in accordance with the College and Institute Act. The Students' Union also uses the same mechanism to collect fees on behalf of the BC Federation of Students

#### Students' Union Fees

The Students' Union fees were increased by the rate of inflation to \$57.69 as per the Union's Bylaws. The Students Union currently collects two fees from members;

Membership Fee: \$57.69 per semester (adjusted annually for inflation)

Accessibility Fee: \$2 per semester

#### BC Federation of Students' Fees

The Students' Union collects fees on behalf of the BC Federation of Students (BCFS) consistent with VCC students' membership in the Federation. In 2022-23, the fees for the BCFS were increased by the rate of inflation per the organization's bylaws. The BCFS fee is currently \$10.99.

## Membership Communications

### Newsletters/Print Media

Newsletters were sent out to the membership for the purpose of sharing information, giving notice for elections and meetings, promoting events and services, and raising awareness of ongoing advocacy work. 14 newsletters were sent throughout the reporting period with an open rate between 75 - 80%.

### Social Media

The Students' Unions Instagram account is the primary mode of communication with members. Along with posting services, events, and campaigns, the Student Union shared content from BCFS, VCC community and other local collation partners on our stories. The Students' Union Instagram followers have increased from 3773 followers to 4130 followers and on an average post reach around 65% of our followers.

## BC Federation of Students'

### GENERAL MEETINGS

#### 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting - January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

The Students' Union sent 8 delegates; Directors Manjot Kaur, Howell Repaja, Dilraj Sandhu, Jag Singh, Tanveer Singh, members Harleen Kaur, and staff persons Melissa Chirino and Brynn Joyce to the General Meeting.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Between the start of the fiscal year and October 2024 the SUVCC representative on the Executive Committee was Harleen Kaur, Director of Events. Between November 2024 and May 2025, the SUVCC Representative was Manjot Kaur, Accessibility

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Representative. From June 2025 to the end of the fiscal year the SUVCC representative on the Executive Committee was Jag Singh, Downtown Campus Representative.

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## Services

### Health And Dental Plan

#### Provider

The Students' Union's Health & Dental plan is provided by Greenshield Canada. The Union has worked with Greenshield for many years and continues to be pleased with the low cost of the plan as well as the speed in which they process claims.

This year, the Students' Union plan cost did not increase, staying at \$285.

#### Broker and Third Party Administrator

The Students' Union uses Prosum Health Benefits as its broker, allowing it to add beneficial services to the H&D plan with minimal additional costs.

AGA Benefits is the Union's Third Party Administrator (TPA). As the TPA, AGA Benefits ensures that students and their dependents are enrolled onto the H&D plan as efficiently as possible every month.

### Member Handbook and Dayplanner

The Students' Union produces its annual handbook through a service of the BC Federation of Students. The BC Federation of Students continually keeps the price stable and as affordable as possible, using vegetable ink and sustainable products. Handbooks arrive in early August every year in time for orientation and welcome back events.

#### 2024-25 HANDBOOK

The Students' Union ordered 6000 member handbooks which arrived on time for the Fall. The handbook continues to be one of the most popular and tangible services for members. \$1095 in ad revenue was generated from the Unions contract with CU Advertising, which assists in offsetting the cost of the handbooks. The Students' Union has signed another contract with CU Advertising for the 2025-26 Handbook and will be working to increase advertising revenue. Offsetting the increasing cost of handbooks through advertising is a priority.

### Student Discount App

The Students' Union provides members discounts in coordination with the BCFS and other member local unions around the province through the Deals App. The Deals App is a free app for members which gives them access to discounts at businesses, restaurants, and services across BC.

#### Discount Solicitation

The SUVCC was able to renew one deal this past year. Some discounts were lost when business shut down or could not renew their lease. Most discount solicitation is done in the summer however board members do try to get discounts throughout the year. If there are any members here that know of a business that would like to join the Deals app, please share with the SUVCC.

Renewals added this year:

- Renewal discount Kitano Donburi Sushi 10%

#### Promotion

The Students' Union primarily promoted the Deals App online through Instagram and in person at welcome events.

### Membership Development and Member Supplies

#### Professional Development

This year the Union introduced the Professional Development Fund In an effort to address members wide variety of opportunities requests for support in their professional development. The fund allows members to be reimbursed for 50% (up to \$100) of the cost of a course of their choosing that they show will benefit their professional career path. Fund requests are adjudicated by the Budget and Operations Committee. For more information on this fund please refer to Service Policy 30.03.

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## Student Activity Fund

The Union saw significant increase in the use of the Student Activity Fund by members putting on cohort celebrations and workshops on campus. The Fund can provide up to \$250 to support members hosting events, workshops, or conferences that directly benefit members. For more information on this fund please refer to Campus Life Policy 40.01.

## Fall 2024 Materials

The Students' Union ordered \$25,806.09 of swag items from the BC Federation of Students' ethical bulk purchasing service. This order included; wheat cups, toques, phone wallet, lanyards, stickers, sticky notes, pens, travel cutlery sets, sunglasses, and water bottles. Swag items are given throughout the year at events and in the office.

## Winter 2024 Materials

A small order of \$5,970.05 was placed to top up supplies for the rest of the 2023-2024 semester. This included T-shirts and lanyards.

## UPASS

### About the Program

U-Pass BC is a universal transit program offered by Vancouver Community College in partnership with the Students' Union of VCC, TransLink and the Province of British Columbia. U-Pass BC provides affordable access to public transit in Metro Vancouver for eligible members. Almost every post-secondary institution in the Lower Mainland participates in this service.

## Students' Union Offices

### Tax Clinic

Like years previous, the students union ran a free tax clinic through CVITP. In the 2024 tax year the clinic helped over 115 members.

### Printing Services

The printing service continues to run using a credit, automated, account-based system. The service is used daily, with students both submitting prints online and printing in office at kiosks. Students still receive \$7.50/ semester and can purchase more credits in \$5.00 amounts in our offices.

### Student Lockers

Lockers are available for rent at \$10 a semester on the second and third floors of Building A on the Broadway Campus. In the past year, locker usage on campus has increased significantly.

### Students' Advocate

The Students' Union offers a Students' Advocate to assist members when navigating system of the College. The Students' Advocate can assist in grade appeals, conduct appeals, or mediate issues between the College, faculty, staff, and members. This service is free and confidential for members to use.

### Yoga

The Students' Union continues to provide free Yoga 1-2 times a month during the Fall and Winter semesters at both campuses.

### Legal Assistance Services

Members who are part of the Health and Dental plan can access experienced lawyers to guide them through most major types of law, including:

- Family
- Criminal
- Civil litigation
- Landlord and tenant

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- Residential real estate
- Wills and Estates
- Tax, Employment
- Condo/Strata
- Immigration
- Identity Theft Support.

Members also have access to unlimited free summary telephone legal advice and unlimited referrals to local lawyers at preferred rates.

Members who are not part of the Health and Dental plan and who live in Greater Vancouver are eligible for 30 minutes of free legal advice by a lawyer.

## Reusable Menstrual Products

The Students' Union continues to sell menstrual cups, pads, and underwear to members at cost. The service offers significant discounts on products and continues to be well received.

## Professional Development Courses

The Students' Union began offering discounts on the Food Handler Certification program, as well as CPR courses and training.

The service is meant to reduce costs of courses required for school or employment. The Food Handler Certification offers an 80% discount, while the CPR courses offer varying degrees of price reduction, depending on the course being taken. The courses have been both well received by members.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – August 2024 – October 2024

### a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director  
Broadway Campus Representative  
Broadway Campus Representative  
Chairperson  
Director of College Affairs  
Director of Events  
Director of Internal Affairs  
Downtown Campus Representative  
Downtown Campus Representative  
Indigenous Students' Representative  
Queer Students' Representative  
Women Students' Representative

Manjot Kaur  
Harneem Gidda  
Sukhmanjeet Singh  
Ravneek Singh  
Marcus Ng  
Harleen Kaur  
Mahakdeep Singh  
Aditya Gupta  
Francesca Leonardo  
Vacant  
Jessica Ligeralde  
Ridhi Bhatia

### b. Local Staff

Bookkeeper  
Executive Director  
Organiser- Advocacy & Governance  
Organiser-Campaigns & Communications  
Organiser-Campus Life  
Services Coordinator  
Services Coordinator (On Leave)

Helen Huie  
Brynn Joyce  
Stefan Nielsen  
Gurpinder Gaidu  
Andy Oya  
Mandy Wan  
McKenzie Hutchison

## 2. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

### a. Board of Governors

November 2023 to October 2024  
November 2023 to October 2024

Daniela-Mercedes Ocana-Macias  
Ridhi Bhatia

### b. Education Council

November 2023 to October 2024  
November 2023 to October 2024  
November 2023 to October 2024  
November 2023 to October 2024

Simranjot Kaur  
Jessica Ligeralde  
Marcus Ng  
Dana Valeria Rodriguez Arellano

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – October 2024 – December 2024

### a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director  
Broadway Campus Representative  
Broadway Campus Representative  
Chairperson  
Director of College Affairs  
Director of Events  
Director of Internal Affairs  
Downtown Campus Representative  
Downtown Campus Representative  
Indigenous Students' Representative  
Queer Students' Representative  
Women Students' Representative

Manjot Kaur  
Arshpreet Kaur  
Prabhdeep Singh  
Dilraj Sandhu  
Tanveer Singh  
Isabella Cheung  
Howell Repaja  
Ravinder Pal Kour  
Jagdeep Singh  
Vacant  
Jaskaran Singh  
Navroop Kaur

### b. Local Staff

Bookkeeper  
Executive Director  
Organiser- Advocacy & Governance  
Organiser-Campaigns & Communications  
Organiser-Campus Life (On Leave)  
Services Coordinator  
Services Coordinator (On Leave)

Helen Huie  
Brynn Joyce  
Stefan Nielsen  
Gurpinder Gaidu  
Andy Oya  
Mandy Wan  
McKenzie Hutchison

## 2. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

### a. Board of Governors

November 2024 to October 2025  
November 2024 to October 2025

Dilraj Sandhu  
Harleen Kaur

### b. Education Council

November 2024 to October 2025  
November 2024 to October 2025  
March 2025 to October 2025  
November 2024 to October 2025

Poorna Karthikeya Balachandar  
Anik Joy Varghese  
Marcus Ng  
Vacant



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF – January 2025 – July 2025

### a. Board of Directors

Accessibility Director  
Broadway Campus Representative  
Broadway Campus Representative  
Chairperson  
Director of College Affairs  
Director of Events  
Director of Internal Affairs  
Downtown Campus Representative  
Downtown Campus Representative  
Indigenous Students' Representative  
Queer Students' Representative  
Women Students' Representative

Manjot Kaur  
Arshpreet Kaur  
Prabdeep Singh  
Dilraj Sandhu  
Tanveer Singh  
Isabella Cheung  
Howell Repaja  
Ravinder Pal Kour  
Jagdeep Singh  
Vacant  
Jaskaran Singh  
Navroop Kaur

### b. Local Staff

Bookkeeper  
Executive Director  
Organiser- Advocacy & Governance (On Leave)  
Organiser- Advocacy & Governance  
Organiser-Campaigns & Communications  
Organiser-Campus Life (On Leave)  
Services Coordinator

Helen Huie  
Brynn Joyce  
Stefan Nielsen  
Melissa Chirino  
Gurpinder Gaidu  
Andy Oya  
McKenzie Hutchison

## 2. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO INSTITUTION GOVERNANCE BODIES

### a. Board of Governors

November 2024 to October 2025  
November 2024 to October 2025

Dilraj Sandhu  
Harleen Kaur

### b. Education Council

November 2024 to October 2025  
November 2024 to October 2025  
March 2025 to October 2025  
November 2024 to October 2025

Poorna Karthikeya Balachandar  
Anik Joy Varghese  
Marcus Ng  
Vacant

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## Appendix A: 2026-27 VCC Budget Consultation

The Students' Union of Vancouver Community College (SUVCC) is pleased to present this year's submission of recommendations for the Vancouver Community College (VCC) budget on behalf of Vancouver Community College students.

Started 3 years ago, the annual Budget Consultation survey has become an important way for SUVCC to connect with our members, hear their concerns, and present them to VCC's Chief Financial Officer and the Finance Committee. These ongoing interactions provide valuable insights into the evolving needs and challenges faced by the diverse student body at VCC.

This year more than ever, we want to ensure students are being prioritized. The 40% reduction in international study permits have affected institutions across Canada. Canadian Universities and Colleges have been extremely reliant on international fees to operate, while post-secondary institutions have received less operating funding from the government.

The Students' Union conducts the VCC Budget Consultation Survey to gather in-depth feedback for our members. The survey provides a platform for members to share their lived experiences, highlighting the financial pressures, service gaps, and systemic barriers they face. The volume and depth of responses underscores the urgency of these issues and equips us with clear, data-driven insights to present to VCC. This report reflects those findings and reinforces our commitment to ensuring that student voices shape the priorities of VCC's 2026/27 budget.

Our mission is for an affordable and accessible education for all students. We understand that IRCC policy changes have had an impact across the country, but we believe it is important for VCC to make sure the students it serves are supported and given the opportunity to thrive.

We at SUVCC understand that the root of the issue of underfunding sits at the foot of the BC Government. SUVCC has continued to advocate along with 13 other student unions in BC for increased government funding that would bring us back to what a properly funded post-secondary system looked like prior to the deregulation of fees in the 2000s.

### 1: Cap International Fees at 2%

A significant number of students expressed financial hardship while attending VCC. 59% of students said that they would be negatively affected if tuition were to increase, many said they would need to take on more debt or drop out. Approximately 36% reported working 10 to 20 hours a week while 24% reported working 20 to 40 hours a week. These numbers raise concerns about how many hours students have throughout the week to focus on their studies.

When asked how their academic/studies would change if they were able to work 20 hours a week and meet their financial obligations, one student said:

***"If I saw a drastic increase in my tuition fees, I would be significantly impacted both financially and emotionally. A steep rise in costs could force me to take on more student loans, increase my work hours (which might affect my academic performance), or even delay my education altogether. It could also limit access to important resources like textbooks or extracurricular activities, making it harder to get the most out of my program. Ultimately, it would add a lot of stress and uncertainty to my education journey."***

An increase in tuition could potentially lead to students having to work more which could result in a reduction in study time and ultimately harm their academic performance.

International students pay up to 5 times more than domestic students, and this gap in tuition cost continues to increase. The 2025-2026 VCC Enrolment Plan forecasts a 24% overall enrolment decline, including a 37% drop in international students and 11-12% drop in domestic students. International tuition fees are no longer reliable as a source of revenue and continuing to increase tuition is a band aid solution to deficits but does not help the institution long term.

38% of respondents said they paid more than \$10,000 in tuition last semester. This is excluding textbook costs. Not only are students feeling financially burdened by the high cost of education but as Vancouver continues to be one of the most unaffordable cities to live in, they also end up being burdened by the high cost of living.

SUVCC appreciates VCC for committing to only a 4% increase of international fees in the 2024-2025 academic year, however 4% of fees that are already high is still a significant increase. With a drop in International Students coming to Canada to study, any increase in tuition could drive students away to a more affordable college.

**Recommendation: Cap International tuition fees at 2% and explore alternative funding sources to maintain accessibility.**

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## Recommendation 2: Expand Affordable Food Options

Food services are more than just a convenience, they're an essential component of student life. VCC is unique in the way that food services are run. Students are the ones that make it possible to have a cafeteria filled with amazing meals and a bakery with delicious pastries. We asked students if they buy food on campus or bring their own lunch. Only 10% of respondents reported buying food on campus while 51% reported bringing their own meals and 39% reported doing a mix of both. 48% of respondents noted bringing their own lunch due to high on-campus food prices. Access to affordable food helps create a campus environment where students can focus on their studies and not what their next meal will be.

***"VCC should at least offer discounts on food at the canteen specially to us student, as everything is quite expensive — even a simple cup of coffee."***

However, the issue extends beyond affordability. Students highlighted the lack of vegan options in the cafeteria and lack of labelling for vegan and gluten-free meals. This is a small step that can be taken to remove barriers and ensure students can easily identify what they are able to eat.

***"I would like to see more variety in food and affordable food options on campus"***

***"There should be more diverse food options — including affordable, healthy, halal, vegan, and gluten-free meals. "***

Introducing a wider range of food options and implementing clear labeling is a simple yet impactful step toward inclusivity on campus. Not only would this benefit students seeking meals that align with their dietary needs, but it would also present a valuable opportunity for those in the Culinary and Bakery programs. By expanding the types of food prepared and served, these students would gain hands on experience with diverse recipes that consider dietary restrictions. These skills would be valuable in preparing our students to go into today's food industry.

In short, improving food variety and transparency on campus supports both the educational goals of students in the culinary and bakery program but also the well-being of the community on campus.

While on-campus food prices are generally lower than those at nearby alternatives, a student discount at both the cafeteria and the bakery would further support students in managing their daily expenses and encourage continued use of campus food services.

A potential solution to this would be providing students a discount through their student ID card. Requiring them to scan their ID card at the point of sale would ensure that this discount is only provided to current students.

**Recommendation: Discounted food prices for students and offer more budget-friendly, dietary-inclusive options (e.g., vegetarian, halal, gluten-free).**

## Recommendation 3: Reinstate and Expand IT Help Desk Services

SUVCC has seen an increase in students seeking IT support through the student union since the removal of the drop-in IT Help Desk.

Not having the IT Help desk has made it difficult for students who need immediate support, especially those who are not confident with technology. For some students, having someone to speak to directly is not only more reassuring but also a more efficient way to resolve their technical issues.

***"Recently, I faced issues with my VCC account not working, along with difficulties resetting my password. Additionally, the email response time was very slow, which made resolving the problem more challenging."***

Students have noted that not having the option to go directly to an IT person for help with an IT issue has made it difficult too, especially during busy periods. IT support is crucial for students for multiple reasons, not being able to use your email could

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prevent you from logging into Moodle, loading your U-PASS, logging into Microsoft office, or having access to the Library database. These are all important services that impact a students' ability to learn. Additionally, VCC hosts a very diverse group of students, which includes students that often lack experience using technology. Having a hybrid form of tech support would be ideal for supporting students that need immediate help while also allowing more "techsavvy" students to use the AI Chat Bot for frequently asked questions that don't necessarily require a person to answer. While not reported by a large percentage of the survey respondents, SUVCC staff have noted an increase over the past year of students coming to our offices looking for IT support. Students who do face these issues may not be the majority but the impacts on their education experience at VCC should not be understated. Ensuring that all students from all backgrounds can quickly resolve their IT issues is a big step toward providing education equity for VCC students.

**Recommendation: Reinroduce the IT Help Desk and ensure tech support is accessible both online and in-person.**

## Recommendation 4: Enhance Study Spaces and Library Facilities

Students highlighted that they have a hard time studying in the library because of how loud it gets. This is a big issue at the Downtown campus where there aren't many study places for students around the campus. In late 2024 SUVCC conducted a study space survey and 70% of respondents reported studying on campus. Out of these respondents, 31% did not believe there are enough study spaces available. In the study space survey, students said they need better spaces for doing group projects and group study sessions. Additionally, student schedules sometimes make it difficult to go off-campus then come back for their next class.

***"I would like to see improved Wi-Fi coverage, more quiet study areas, and extended library hours."***

The lack of space on campus for students to connect outside of their class schedules results in students doing so in the library, where other students are trying to study. Having more study spaces and general areas for students to hang out would alleviate the tensions in the library, something which was noted in the VCC Library's Education Services Renewal Report from last year. It's important to recognize that social spaces on campus contribute to a healthy campus life. Students need spaces to connect and decompress. Unfortunately, the library has become a space that students use to socialize.

***"The library is supposed to be a quiet space for studying and reading, but at the downtown campus, this is not being respected. I enjoy studying at the library because it's a cozy environment, but it's become more of a social lounge than a place for focused learning."***

We believe that the solution is not to restrict students from socializing, but to create and establish student spaces on campus that serve different needs. By expanding the number of social lounges and informal gathering areas, it helps clearly define that the library is meant for studying and doing academic work.

**Recommendation: Upgrade library infrastructure, add more social spaces at the downtown campus, enforce quiet zones, and extend hours during exam periods.**

### **Conclusion**

SUVCC understands and acknowledges that in the coming years VCC will be required to make difficult choices. Uncertainty around international students, a decrease in domestic enrolment, and the continued lack of support from the provincial government means that finding ways to continue funding the institution will require making changes and looking for alternative sources of funding. VCC prides itself on providing programs and courses for students which are important for the economy, important for the community's well-being, and not always profitable. As VCC develops the 2026-27 budgets we hope that students' needs will be kept at the center of that development and any cuts will be made in a way that minimizes the impacts on students and student services.

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## Appendix B: 2024 AGM Motions Explainer

### 2024 AGM Proposed Bylaw Amendments Explainer

#### **Motion N06: Revision of the Board of Directors**

This motion is proposing that the positions of Chairperson, Director of College Affairs, and Director of Internal affairs be removed and turned into portfolio positions. Board members, once elected, have the opportunity to run for a portfolio position through an internal election process.

In order to address the loss of these 3 positions (Chairperson, Director of College Affairs, and Director of Internal Affairs) this motion also proposes the addition of 4 Director-at-Large positions. This would address the loss of the above positions and reduce barriers to running on the board. The additional position would address the loss of a board member when the Annacis Island campus was closed in 2022 and that campus representative position was removed.

#### Why is the board proposing this?

In recent years there has been an increase in members running for the positions of Chairperson, Director of College Affairs, and Director of Internal Affairs on the mistaken assumption that these positions hold greater power and prestige than other positions on the board. In fact, no position on the board has any more power than any other.

This change will better reflect the actual duties these positions hold and allow elected board members to decide among themselves who performs these duties, and also allows a mechanism to choose someone else if the board member holding a particular portfolio position steps down from, or is removed from the board. The addition of 4 Director-At-Large positions will also reduce the barrier of participation in the election as these positions have less initial responsibility should a member be elected into it.

#### **Motion N07: Term Limit of Board Members**

This motion is proposing that a term limit of 4 years be placed on Board Members.

#### Why is the board proposing this?

This motion has been proposed by the Board to address concerns regarding board members sitting on the board for many years and potentially stopping other members from sitting on the board and bringing new ideas. The Bylaws state that the Term of a board members is from the end of the first board meeting after the most recent election until the the end of the first . In order to address this concern the motion proposes that the term limit of board members be set to 4 terms (4 years) in office.

#### **Motion N08: Moving Board Member Compensation into the SUVCC Bylaws**

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This motion is proposing that Policy 20.03 which includes how and how much board members may receive as a stipend for their time volunteering on the Board be removed and placed into Bylaw V. **Note: Policies can be changed by the Board of Directors at any time with a 2/3's majority vote, while Bylaws can only be changed at an Annual General Meeting and require a 2/3's majority vote.**

Why is the board proposing this?

This past year the board voted to increase the amount that board members receive as a stipend for their time served on the Board in an attempt to make it easier for members to serve on the Board by ensuring they are more adequately compensated for their time. However, the Board is also aware that because this policy can be changed by the board it would be very easy for future board to further increase their stipends with little to no oversight from the general membership. By moving this policy into Bylaw V, it will ensure that future Boards cannot easily change the amount they receive in stipends. Bylaws can only be changed at an Annual General Meeting which would require the Board to ask the members if they can have a raise. This is much more fiscally responsible as it ensures Board members cannot raise their stipends by any amount and at any time.





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