

# Candidate Info



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## Candidates for President

### Francesca Gesualdi

[No headshot provided.]

#### Biography

This term at Capilano I am enrolled in an independent tutorial in Interdisciplinary Studies under the supervision of a faculty member. My focus is intergenerational learning / teaching in higher education, and the role of storytelling and art in knowledge building. This is in partnership with an internship I have recently begun with the Age-Friendly University Global Network, an international association of academics and universities advocating for seniors returning to university in their 60's and the benefits they bring with them. I, myself, am a member of this 60+ cohort. Last May (2025) I hosted a well attended World Cafe table at Capilano's Center For Teaching Excellence Symposium on Innovations in Teaching for faculty on this subject.

One of the goals of my internship is to increase understanding of the longevity dividend that senior students bring to campus, and that requires increasing our visibility. I can think of no better way at this moment to lead by example on the visibility issue than to run for President of the Capilano Student Union.

I bring my work experience as a senior office administrator for a boutique investment firm and as an art gallery manager to my role, though I am retired from both.

As a food security advocate I have been part of a team delivering food literacy workshops in the Francophone School District in Vancouver. For three consecutive years I volunteered as an assistant kayaking guide for the Duke of Edinburg Awards program, taking urban teenagers for five day wilderness adventures in the Discovery Island area.

I am launching a small library exclusively on food stories at a farm in my neighborhood this spring. This library will be the prelude to food writing and storytelling workshops.

Thank you, Francesca.

#### Campaign Platform

I believe the job of President of the CSU is an immersive responsibility. It is a position of service, not a position of power. I want to be a proactive and engaged President, chair meetings such that they produce results while making sure that members are heard. While I am campaigning also as an act of visibility for the senior students, such as myself who are often invisible, my job will be to serve and advocate for the interests of a varied and very vibrant student community, which I have such respect for. In my Community Capacity building class it was strongly impressed upon us that we do "with" the people we serve, not "for" them, that we not presume we know what others want from community service. I would very much love to know what these busy, beautiful, promising students all around me are thinking about their student life, what they would like to see happen on campus, what they need to succeed. So a huge priority for me would be to implement ways for us to get constructive feedback from the student body as to what is important to us, and –equally relevant—how to achieve these important goals. Sometimes those who have the most interesting things to contribute are not always the loudest speakers, so I would hope to encourage all ways of participating. The goals we identify would speak to our lived experiences as students, our stories, the dreams and ambitions that will drive innovation in education. Together we can ask and answer the questions - What initiatives, what strategies can we develop as a team, based on our core values and strengths that will make our learning environment more robust, resilient, responsive? Though part of my role is to be a spokesperson,

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I am not speaking for myself, but for the larger, higher good. Higher education and education in general are undergoing challenging transformations globally right now, and I am excited to be a part of it. I would, of course continue the work in our current campaigns; Make the Switch, and Cap International Student Fees, but I look forward to seeing how we can grow timely campaigns on other issues. I don't think it is an easy job, and so I am prepared to work hard at it.

## Sam Gholami



### Biography

Sam Gholami is a 29-year-old third-year Bachelor of Arts in Psychology student at Capilano University who brings maturity, proven leadership, and a strong commitment to service. Known as a principled and action-oriented leader, Sam understands both the academic and real-world challenges students face.

Sam's leadership is grounded in extensive management experience. As the owner of a

restaurant and a car rental company, he developed strong skills in strategic planning, team leadership, financial oversight, and high-stakes decision-making. He later transitioned into post-secondary education, serving as Assistant Director of Admissions at a private college in Vancouver and currently working as a Campus Manager, where he supports student success, oversees operations, and strengthens institutional systems.

His commitment to human rights is demonstrated through his involvement with the Women, Life, Freedom movement and his current volunteer work with the Free Iran Movement, advocating for freedom of speech, religion, and human dignity. Sam is also in the process of joining the Canadian Armed Forces Army Reserve to further serve his community and country.

Beyond academics and leadership, Sam is an award-winning writer and poet and a former national wrestling champion at ages 14, 16, and 17—experiences that built the discipline, resilience, and focus that define his leadership style today.

Looking ahead, Sam plans to pursue a doctoral degree in psychology and dedicate his career to supporting children with Autism and ADHD. He is running for CSU President to deliver transparent, accountable, and results-driven leadership that strengthens student voice, improves communication, and enhances student support across all CapU campuses.

Grounded in integrity and driven by service, Sam is committed to representing students with professionalism, honesty, and action.

### Campaign Platform

As a mature student, entrepreneur, and education leader, I am running for President of the Capilano Students' Union to bring experienced, transparent, and results-driven leadership to our student community. The CSU

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plays a critical role in delivering services, fostering student life, and advocating for students across all CapU campuses. My priority is to ensure the union is proactive, accountable, and deeply connected to the real needs of students.

## 1. Stronger Student Voice and Representation

Many students feel disconnected from decision-making processes that affect their academic and campus experience. As President, I will implement structured student consultation through regular town halls, targeted surveys, and faculty-specific listening sessions. I will ensure the CSU actively engages and consults with students, consistent with the President's responsibility to seek meaningful student input and serve as the organization's spokesperson. My goal is simple: every student should feel heard, respected, and represented.

## 2. Transparency and Accountability in the CSU

Students deserve to clearly understand how their student fees are used and what the CSU is accomplishing on their behalf. I will work to improve communication by publishing plain-language updates on board decisions, strategic priorities, and major initiatives. I will also advocate for clearer reporting on CSU projects and outcomes so students can see measurable results from their union. Trust is built through transparency, and I am committed to leading with integrity and openness.

## 3. Student Success, Wellness, and Mental Health Support

Student success goes beyond academics. Balancing coursework, work, and personal responsibilities can be overwhelming. I will collaborate with CSU leadership and the university to strengthen awareness and accessibility of mental health, wellness, and academic support services. I will prioritize initiatives that reduce barriers for mature

students, working students, and those navigating high stress. A thriving campus begins with supported students.

## 4. Meaningful Engagement and Campus Life

The CSU exists to foster student life and community. I will support expanded programming that brings students together socially, academically, and professionally. With my background in management and student engagement, I will work to ensure events are inclusive, well-communicated, and responsive to student interests. My focus will be on quality, participation, and impact—not just the number of events.

## 5. Professional and Strategic Leadership

The President is responsible for chairing the executive committee, helping lead the CSU's strategic plan, and supervising the executive director. I bring real-world management experience from running businesses and leading in post-secondary administration. I will approach this role with professionalism, strong decision-making, and a collaborative mindset. My leadership will be solutions-focused, data-informed, and grounded in the best interests of all CapU students.

## My Commitment

I am running because I believe student leadership should be mature, ethical, and action-oriented. If elected, I will work diligently, listen carefully, and lead with integrity to ensure the Capilano Students' Union continues to deliver meaningful value to every student it serves.

If elected, Sam aims to focus on:

Advocacy for equality of ALL students Including but not limited to Indigenous, Visible Minority, LGBTQ+ community, and both International and Domestic students

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Strengthening student voice in institutional decision-making

Improving communication and transparency within the student union

Enhancing support systems that promote student success and well-being

Building stronger engagement between the union and the broader student body

Advocating effectively and professionally on behalf of CapU students

He believes the Students' Union should be proactive, visible, and accountable—an organization that students trust not only to speak for them but to deliver meaningful outcomes.

## Arjunveer Singh Paman



### Biography

Hello everyone, My name is Arjunveer Singh Paman, and I am currently in my fifth semester studying for an Associate of Science (General)

degree. Throughout my academic life, I have always strived to ensure that I have a strong academic record while also being involved in other activities. My current program of study has helped me develop my analytical skills, problem-solving skills, and discipline, which has helped me in my personal and academic development.

Apart from my studies, I am also extremely passionate about sports. I enjoy playing basketball, hockey, badminton, and volleyball. These sports have helped me develop team spirit, perseverance, and time management skills. Sports have always been an important part of my life and have helped me develop my character. In my school days in India, I had the privilege of being the Sports Captain of my school. As a Sports Captain, I was able to manage teams, coordinate inter-school events, motivate my fellow students, and represent my school in different tournaments. This experience taught me the value of responsibility, communication, and leading by example.

However, my passion for sports has also resulted in some personal accomplishments. I have won medals in volleyball, basketball, and hockey tournaments, which indicate my dedication, hard work, and passion. These achievements not only increased my confidence but also taught me some important lessons in teamwork, discipline, and determination.

Apart from my academic and sports achievements, I am also interested in reading manga during my leisure time, which helps me relax and enhance my creativity and imagination. I strongly believe in leading a balanced life that helps me take care of my mental and physical health.

In short, I always work towards becoming a hardworking, disciplined, and goal-oriented person. My academic endeavors, leadership qualities, sports achievements, and personal interests all indicate my dedication to

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development, teamwork, and excellence in every aspect of my life.

## Campaign Platform

As a candidate for the position of President, I believe that this position has the duty of not only considering individual students but also the organization as a whole. The President is the voice of the students and has the duty of speaking on their behalf and working in conjunction with the board and the university administration to bring about improvements. My vision is focused on improving student engagement, enhancing awareness of benefits, improving campus life, and ensuring sound financial management.

One of my top priorities is improving the social life of students on campus. While I truly appreciate the efforts of the university and CSU in organizing events, many of these activities are scheduled during peak academic hours, such as 11:30 AM or 12:30 PM, when students are attending classes. As a result, many students are unable to participate. I would advocate for more events to be held after university hours, particularly after 5:00 PM, so that a larger number of students can attend and engage. A stronger campus social environment builds community, reduces stress, and improves the overall student experience.

Additionally, I would introduce new and inclusive social initiatives that would provide students with a structured and comfortable way to meet new people, build friendships, and expand their social circles. For many students, especially international students or those new to campus, forming connections can be challenging. Creating safe and organized spaces for interaction can significantly enhance student well-being.

Another key priority is increasing student awareness of their benefits. Many students are unaware of the services included in their fees,

such as travel insurance and other student benefits. While informing students is primarily the responsibility of the university, I believe the student leadership team should actively help promote awareness. I would work with the board to improve communication strategies so that students fully understand and utilize the benefits they are already paying for.

Sports engagement is another important focus for me. Having been at the university for the past year and a half, I have not seen a major student sports competition organized. As someone who is passionate about sports, I understand how athletics can bring students together, promote health, and build school spirit. I would work with the board to organize inter-departmental or campus-wide sports tournaments, offering recognition and prizes to winners. These competitions would encourage teamwork, participation, and pride within our student community.

Finally, I believe in responsible financial management. Student funds must be used effectively and transparently. I would propose implementing a bi-monthly review or auditing process for student clubs to ensure that allocated funds are being used appropriately. There have been situations where clubs were formed, received funding, and then became inactive without organizing events. For example, there was an AI club that was started and closed shortly after receiving funding without hosting any activities. By introducing clearer accountability measures and periodic reviews, we can prevent misuse of funds and redirect resources toward active initiatives that genuinely benefit students.

I recognize that no President can bring about change alone. This position demands teamwork, collaboration, and effective communication with the board, administration, and students. My pledge is to lead with integrity, inclusiveness, and commitment. We can build a more engaging, informed, active, and financially

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responsible student organization that serves its constituents.

## Milo Prentice



### Biography

My name is Milo Prentice and I want to represent your interests. I am a 2nd year student at Capilano in the humanities. Over the past year I have been proud to represent the students of Capilano university in my role as a student senator on the Capilano senate (the academic governing body of the university). My position on the senate provided me a seat on the CSU Board of Directors, and what I saw there appalled me. There exists a culture that allows for absences, that allows for incomplete reports, and that allows for the mid-semester vacations of its executives. This cannot be allowed to continue, the CSU is an important aspect of your university experience, and having it run by those that do not care, or worse, is dangerous.

My time on the CSU BOD led me to believe that the most urgent issue facing the students of

Capilano is found in the CSU and its leadership. This motivated my decision to run for the presidency of the organization, top down change is needed, and I am prepared to bring accountability, transparency, and a renewed commitment to serving students first.

### Campaign Platform

My message is simple: lower fees and respect to students.

Throughout my time at this university, I have seen that many of the activities organized by the CSU simply do not resonate with the broader student population. As students, we pay over \$500 per year in CSU fees, yet the majority of students I speak with feel they gain little to no value in return. Just weeks ago, the CSU hosted "Sex Toy Bingo." Regardless of one's political views, many students question whether this is a responsible or representative use of mandatory student funds. If elected, I will work to reduce both the frequency and cost of events, while engaging directly with students to ensure activities better reflect the interests and priorities of a larger portion of the student body. Student dollars should be spent in ways that are inclusive, practical, and clearly beneficial.

Lowering fees must also include reviewing executive compensation. Currently, members of the executive committee earn between \$20,000 and \$30,000 annually for an expected 20 hours of work per week. However, there is little formal accountability in place to verify whether these hours are consistently fulfilled—no standardized timesheets, only an honour-based system. The CSU pays its executives among the highest salaries in the province compared to other student unions. This is difficult to justify, particularly given our university's reputation as a more affordable educational option. Greater transparency and accountability are essential to maintaining student trust.

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I also want to continue advocating for student rights. One concern that has repeatedly been raised is the university's practice of cancelling classes due to low enrollment during the registration period. This approach is uncommon within the broader university landscape and can create unnecessary stress and setbacks for students planning their academic paths. If elected, I will collaborate with the executive team and administration to push for a more student-centered solution that prioritizes stability and fairness.

Ultimately, I am committed to building a CSU that is fiscally responsible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of its members. I want a student union that appeals to all students, respects their financial contributions, and actively fights for the rights and academic success of every Capilano student.

## Rajveer Singh



### Biography

My name is Rajveer Singh, and I am a second-year Business Administration Diploma student at Capilano University. I am currently serving as the Business and Professional Studies Representative, where I have gained valuable experience advocating for student needs, supporting academic concerns, and working collaboratively to improve student life on campus.

I completed my higher education in Commerce. My academic background has provided me with a strong foundation in business principles, communication, and organizational skills that I continue to build on during my studies in Canada.

Throughout my educational journey, I have actively taken on leadership roles. I was honored to serve as the Head Boy of my school, where I worked closely with faculty and staff to organize

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events, manage student initiatives, and represent the student body. This experience helped me develop strong skills in teamwork, responsibility, and event coordination.

I consider myself a confident and approachable leader who believes in taking initiative and embracing opportunities. I am highly social, fluent in communication, and enjoy connecting with people from diverse backgrounds. I believe effective leadership comes from listening, supporting others, and leading with dedication and transparency.

With my experience in student representation, event management, and leadership, I am committed to serving the Capilano student community and creating a more engaging, inclusive, and student-focused campus experience as President of the Capilano Students' Union.

## Campaign Platform

I am running for President of the Capilano Students' Union because I want to make student life better, more connected, and more supportive for everyone at Capilano University.

As the current Business and Professional Studies Representative, I already understand what students face every day. I have listened to concerns, worked with others, and learned how important it is to have a Union that actually stands with students.

If elected as President, I want to focus on real priorities that matter.

### 1. Better Communication and Student Voice

Many students don't know what CSU offers or how to reach out when they need help. I want CSU to feel open and approachable. More updates, more student interaction, and more chances for students to share their ideas and problems directly.

### 2. Career and Academic Opportunities

Students come to university to build their future. I want more career support, networking events, skill workshops, and partnerships that help students grow beyond the classroom. More opportunities for internships and professional connections matter.

### 3. Mental Health and Wellness Support

Student life gets stressful, especially when balancing studies, jobs, and personal life. International students also face extra challenges adjusting to a new environment. I want to support stronger wellness programs, mental health awareness, and better access to student support services.

### 4. Inclusion and Campus Community

Capilano has students from many cultures and backgrounds. Everyone deserves to feel included and welcomed. I want more cultural events, student activities, and spaces where students can connect, make friends, and feel part of a community.

### 5. Responsible and Honest Leadership

As President, I will lead with transparency and responsibility. Student fees should be used properly, and CSU should always stay accountable to students. Leadership means listening first, then taking action.

### Closing Message

I am standing for President because I care about students and want to bring positive change. With my leadership experience, strong communication, and commitment to serving others, I am ready to represent Capilano students with confidence and dedication.

Together, we can make CSU stronger and student life better for all.

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## Benisse Zinga



### Biography

Benisse Zinga is a third-year Bachelor of Communications student at Capilano University, known across campus for her warmth, approachability, and welcoming spirit. Beyond her friendly presence is a collaborative leader who believes deeply in unity. She leads with the conviction that everyone brings value to the table and that when people work together, they create meaningful and lasting impact.

Born and raised in Canada, Benisse is proudly half Angolan and half Guatemalan. Growing up in a multicultural household shaped her perspective and ability to connect across cultures. Her heritage instilled a strong appreciation for identity and belonging, allowing her to build meaningful connections with both domestic and international students and understand the diverse experiences they bring to campus.

Choosing Communications was about more than public speaking, it was about understanding people. She was drawn to Capilano's program for its integration of business strategy, psychology, and human connection. Her academic dedication has earned her consistent Dean's List standing and three consecutive years of Merit List recognition.

With a strong foundation in interpersonal communication, Benisse believes leadership begins with listening. Her education equips her to engage meaningfully with students while effectively representing and advocating for them to faculty and administration.

Throughout her studies, she has led multiple group projects, coordinating teams and ensuring accountability through structured timelines and regular check-ins. When challenges arose, she implemented clear communication systems and constructive peer feedback to strengthen both performance and confidence. These experiences shaped her adaptive leadership style, rooted in empathy, clarity, and collaboration.

Beyond campus, Benisse volunteers with Kaleidoscope Mental Health Society, supporting marketing initiatives that promote mental health awareness. She also serves at Bases Family Thrift Store, where she has witnessed the realities many community members face. These roles have deepened her empathy and strengthened her commitment to dignity, access, and support.

Benisse is running for President of the Capilano Student Union because she believes Capilano deserves greater unity and stronger connection. Even uniting the campus by 2% is progress worth fighting for. Her goal is to leave Capilano more connected and flourishing long after her term ends.

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## Campaign Platform

My name is Benisse Zinga, and I am putting my name forward for President of the Capilano Students' Union with a genuine desire to serve our student community. I care deeply about Capilano and believe we can continue building stronger unity and clearer leadership together. Many peers have encouraged me to step forward, sharing that they value my willingness to listen and support others. I am grateful for that trust, and I am choosing to run in hopes of contributing positively and standing alongside students in meaningful ways.

Throughout my time at Capilano, I have noticed a real disconnect between programs. Students are passionate about their fields, yet too often exist in separate circles, limiting collaboration, creativity, and community. As President, I will prioritize structured cross-faculty initiatives each semester, including open student forums that bring programs together around shared campus issues. I will also encourage student-led event proposals so ideas come directly from you. A more unified campus strengthens not only our university experience, but the professional networks and friendships we carry long after graduation.

As President of the Capilano Students' Union, you won't have to wonder what your student government is doing. I will provide clear monthly updates outlining what we committed to, what has been completed, how student fees are being allocated, and what comes next. Transparency should not be optional, it should be the standard.

I will also hold consistent, available office hours and open forums so students can bring forward ideas, frustrations, and questions, and receive real follow-up. If something is raised, it will be documented, tracked, and addressed.

My focus will stay on what affects your daily experience at Capilano:

### 1. A Campus That Feels Like It Belongs to Students

I will work to build a culture that is welcoming, collaborative, and genuinely student-first, where students across programs, identities, and backgrounds feel seen and included.

### 2. Visible & Accessible Mental Health Support

I will push for clearer pathways to mental health resources, stronger promotion of services, and better connection to peer support networks so no student feels alone.

### 3. Transparency Around Fees & Financial Supports

I will advocate for clearer communication about fees, scholarships, and financial aid, so you can make informed decisions without confusion or uncertainty.

Leadership, to me, means guiding through challenges while ensuring every voice is heard. Advocacy is not just about speaking, it is about listening, understanding, and delivering results. Transparency and accountability will be cornerstones of my presidency, with clear goals set at the beginning of my term and measurable progress shared throughout the year.

If elected, success will mean a more unified Capilano. A campus where students feel informed, supported, empowered, and proud of their community. I want students to feel that their President is not above them, but alongside them working, listening, and advocating every step of the way.

I am not running for a title. I am running to serve.

## Candidates for Vice-President Finance and Services

### Mohammad Ali

[No headshot provided.]

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## Biography

My name is Mohammad ali. I am an undergraduate student in Capilano university majoring in associate of arts and science. Im from a Muslim family. I was born and raised in Patiala, Punjab, in a politically engaged family that emphasized public service, accountability, and community leadership. My father has been actively serving the Indian National Congress for over 25 years and currently holds a position in the Minority Commission Punjab. Growing up in such an environment encouraged me to deep understanding of governance, civic responsibility, and organized leadership from an early age.

I completed my schooling at Budha Dal Public School in Patiala, achieving 80% in Grade 10 and 86% in Grade 12 (Arts stream). My academic journey has been shaped by discipline, consistency, and active participation beyond the classroom. I pursued two years of undergraduate studies in India before moving to Canada to further expand my academic and global exposure.

Alongside academics, I have held significant leadership roles. I served as the Youth President of my city under the youth Congress for one year, where I coordinated youth initiatives, organized rallies, and facilitated community outreach programs. I was later elected President of Mahindra College, Patiala, where I represented student interests, managed organizational responsibilities, and led institutional activities.

In addition, I organized blood donation camps and worked to support youth volunteers in accessing employment opportunities within Punjab. These experiences strengthened my administrative skills, teamwork, and ability to represent diverse voices responsibly.

Beyond academics and leadership, I am a district-level silver medalist in Under-20

weightlifting, reflecting my dedication, discipline, and perseverance.

My background in academic commitment, structured leadership, and community engagement has prepared me to contribute responsibly and effectively to university governance.

## Campaign Platform

As a student I had leadership positions in India and now continues my education in Canada, I realize that financial management and services are the key points of a successful student organization. As Vice President Finance & Services, my first priority will be to ensure that the financial management of students is done in a responsible and student-centered manner.

My first priority is financial transparency and accountability. Students have a right to know how their money is being spent. I will ensure that financial budgeting is transparent, accessible, and communicated effectively. This will include providing students with easy-to-understand financial information, promoting discussions about financial priorities, and ensuring that financial decisions are made prudently and responsibly. Financial management is not just about money; it is about trust.

Second, I would like to concentrate on effective budgeting and resource management Every dollar that comes from students should be for students. I will examine budgeting patterns to make sure that money goes to services that have direct effects, such as student areas, campus activities, and engagement activities. I will promote data-informed budgeting decisions that are based on actual student needs.

Another important area that I would like to focus on is improving student areas and services. Budgeting should help improve facilities, inclusive activities, and accessible services. I will promote and develop student areas that are inclusive, safe, and functional for all students.

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Improving student life, not just maintaining it, should be the focus of budgeting.

I also think that it is important to develop effective internal systems. Together with the Executive Director, I will promote healthy HR systems and positive labor relations to make sure that staff and volunteers work in a respectful and productive manner. Organizational efficiency has a direct impact on the quality of services that students can receive.

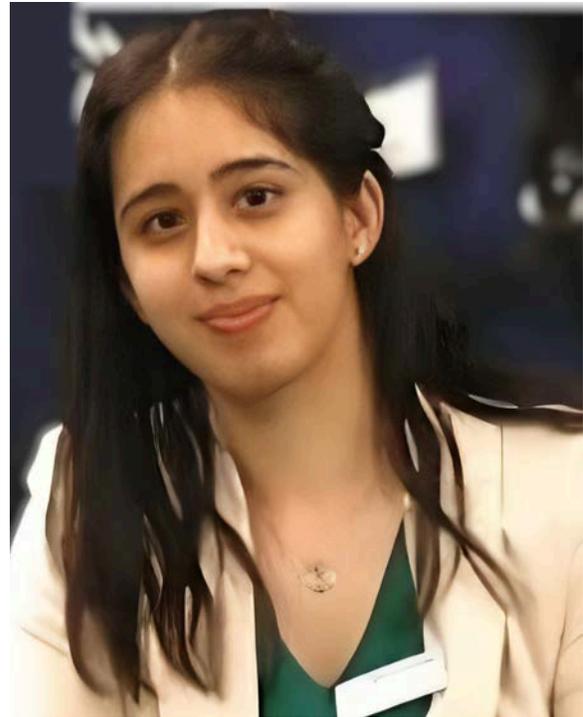
As a member of the Finance & Audit Committee and the Student Engagement Committee, I will make sure that the legal requirements are fulfilled and the standards of governance are maintained. These are non-negotiable aspects that will be maintained under my leadership.

Further, I would like to make sure that there are opportunities for students to provide their input on financial matters. Through this, I will make sure that financial matters are not isolated but are, in fact, student-centered.

Through my previous experiences in organizing events, managing teams, and taking on leadership roles, I have learned discipline, responsibility, and planning. As the Vice President Finance & Services, I will make sure that there is a balance between being responsible and making decisions that are student-centered.

My goal is simple: to manage finances responsibly, improve services meaningfully, and ensure that every financial decision strengthens the student experience.

## Meharveen



### Biography

Meharveen is a 4th year Capilano University student pursuing a career in finance and accounting, with a strong focus on leadership, governance, and student advocacy. She has built experience in financial oversight and organizational planning through student leadership roles, including serving as Vice President, Finance & Services with the Capilano Students' Union (CSU), where she supports responsible budgeting, transparent reporting, and the delivery of student services.

Meharveen has also served as Director of Finance for the Human Resource Management Association, managing budgets and supporting event planning, and as a Student Ambassador for the Capilano Accounting Association, where she helped lead a student tax clinic and supported student engagement initiatives such as networking events and case competitions. She is also a CPABC Campus Ambassador,

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helping connect students with professional development resources and CPA pathway opportunities.

Alongside her campus involvement, Meharveen has professional work experience in fast-paced team environments, including roles as a line cook in Vancouver. As an international student in British Columbia, Meharveen brings a perspective grounded in inclusion, accountability, and service. Her personal achievements reflect consistency and commitment: she has taken on leadership roles that require trust, financial responsibility, and collaboration, while continuing to grow academically and professionally.

## Campaign Platform

Student unions in B.C. are operating in a difficult financial and governance environment. In BC, the provincial tuition framework shapes the broader post-secondary funding landscape, and CSU must plan responsibly within those realities. Student needs are rising, especially around affordability, food security, clubs, and meaningful engagement across campuses. This makes careful planning, transparency, and long-term financial sustainability more important than ever.

This year, I focused on financial stewardship and transparency. I maintained close oversight of budgets and reporting, so decisions were informed and accountable with the help of staff. I also supported advocacy and external relationship work, including lobbying efforts connected to U-Pass, because affordability issues directly affect students' daily lives. For my second term, my platform aligns with the Year 2 strategic priorities under my portfolio, with the Student Union Building currently on hold.

If re-elected, my priorities for VP Finance & Services are:

Finance Priorities

1) Budget sustainability and deficit prevention -

Maintaining a 1% surplus is a requirement, but it has become more necessary than ever to strengthen cost-cutting and efficiency measures. 2026 is predicted to be the year with the lowest enrollment levels, which makes financial planning more challenging and increases the risk of deficits if spending is not controlled early. My priority is to continue improving forecasting and scenario planning while actively identifying areas where CSU can reduce unnecessary spending, protect reserves, and keep essential services stable for students.

2) Sponsorships and external funding to support events and reduce pressure on student fees - With limited fee growth, we need more non-fee revenue. I will continue working on implementing a stronger sponsorship approach.

3) Club funding sustainability as club demand grows -

Club demand continues to increase while the overall funding pool remains limited. This year, I have been actively working to ensure clubs do not run out of funding by allocating resources carefully and prioritizing spending that directly benefits students. My approach has been to take club funding decisions seriously, reduce unnecessary expenses, and protect a surplus that can support clubs when demand increases. In my second term, I will continue strengthening this model, so club funding remains fair, sustainable, and transparent.

4) Advocacy during the ongoing BC post-secondary review-

I will continue advocacy efforts focused on affordability and student impact, grounded in evidence and aligned with CSU governance standards, so CSU remains credible and effective in provincial discussions that shape student costs and campus resources.

Services Priorities

# Candidate Info



## 1) Food security expansion with stable planning -

Food insecurity is more urgent than ever. This past year, significant effort was put into supports such as Quest Pass and holiday hampers, and I want to continue that same momentum. My priority is to keep food security supports reliable and visible, strengthen planning so distribution is predictable, and ensure supports can expand when demand increases, while staying financially responsible and accountable.

## 2) Adapting CSU services to changing demographics and the evolving enrollment landscape-

I will focus on better engaging domestic students while maintaining inclusive services for all students, using participation data and student feedback to redesign services and outreach so CSU remains relevant and accessible.

## 3) Student engagement through micro pop-ups and low-cost programming-

In my continued efforts in responding to revenue changes, more fun and themed activities will be introduced for consistent, small-scale, low-cost engagement.

## 4) Preparing for student housing and a potential 24/7 campus-

As Capilano university works on opening a new student housing on campus, CSU services must evolve. Planning will be required to ensure students living on campus have access to low barrier supports, improved student space experiences, and programming that matches when and how students use campus.

I am running for a second term because continuity matters in this role. CSU needs leadership that understands its budget structure, governance responsibilities, and operational realities, especially during financial constraints and enrollment change. My commitment is to

protect student funds, strengthen transparency, and modernize services so CSU remains financially sustainable while meeting student needs now and in the years ahead.

## Muskan Sharma



## Biography

I am a fourth-year Bachelor of Business Administration student majoring in Accounting and Finance at Capilano University. I plan to pursue my CPA designation after graduation. I have always been interested in accounting because I enjoy working with numbers and understanding what they mean. I like explaining financial information in a simple way so others can understand it clearly.

Along with my studies, I am involved in Enactus Capilano as a Growth and Workshop Coordinator for the U-Belong project. In this role, I have helped apply for grants to support our project and participated in organizing and running events. I have also delivered in-class workshops to help students manage stress and

# Candidate Info



feel more confident. Being part of U-Belong has helped me grow my teamwork, communication, and leadership skills.

I have also taken part in new student orientation activities, where I supported incoming students as they adjusted to university life. Through my coursework and real-life experiences, I have built confidence, financial knowledge, and practical skills that I believe are important for responsible leadership.

I am passionate about financial literacy and believe that understanding money and resources is a valuable asset. I hope to use what I have learned to contribute positively to the student community while continuing to grow both personally and professionally.

## Campaign Platform

I am running for VP Finance & Services because I believe student money should be managed carefully and explained clearly. CSU does publish budgets and midterm reports, and I think that is important. At the same time, I feel that many students still don't really know where to find this information or what it actually means.

If elected, one of my priorities would be improving awareness and understanding of CSU finances. I am not saying the information is hidden. It exists. But I think it can be shared in a simpler and more regular way. Short summaries, clear explanations of major funds, and reminders during the year could help students feel more informed about where their fees go.

Another priority for me is improving the funding experience for clubs and student initiatives. Student life depends on active clubs and events. Funding processes should feel clear and organized, not confusing. As someone who has worked on grant applications through Enactus, I understand how important clear timelines and expectations are. I would focus on improving communication around funding decisions so students know what to expect.

I also think it is important to continue explaining long-term financial planning. For example, some funds are set aside for specific purposes, like the Student Union Building project. Students should understand which funds are used right away and which are saved for future plans. Clear explanations build trust.

I also believe financial literacy is an important part of this role. Many students, including myself when I first started university, are still learning how budgeting and financial planning work. If elected, I would support simple initiatives that help students better understand financial topics and the resources available to them through the CSU.

As an Accounting and Finance student and aspiring CPA, I value responsibility and balance. Finance is not just about numbers. It reflects decisions that affect students directly. My goal would be to bring a steady and practical approach to this role, focusing on clarity, fairness, and careful financial management.

Overall, I want students to feel confident that their fees are handled responsibly and that financial information is easy to understand and accessible throughout the year.

# Candidate Info



## Agamjit Singh



### Biography

My name is Agamjit Singh and I am a second-year Business Administration diploma student who is passionate about leadership, teamwork, and improving student life. I believe that good leadership begins with listening, understanding real problems, and taking action to create positive change.

I have hands-on financial experience from helping my father manage our family business in India. Through this role, I learned how to track expenses, manage records, support daily financial decisions, and plan budgets responsibly. This experience taught me discipline, accountability, and the importance of making careful financial choices, which are essential skills for the role of Vice President Finance & Services.

In addition to my financial background, I have actively participated in volunteer work. I helped organize a blood donation camp in India, where I

coordinated with volunteers, and ensured the smooth flow of the event. This experience strengthened my leadership, organization, and teamwork skills and taught me the value of community service.

Currently, I work at YVR International Airport as a Customer Service Representative. My responsibilities include assisting passengers and supporting U.S. Customs by providing translation services in Hindi and Punjabi. This role has helped me develop strong communication skills, patience, cultural understanding, and professionalism in high-pressure environments.

Through my academic studies, work experience, and volunteer involvement, I have developed a strong sense of responsibility and dedication. I am motivated to represent student voices, improve campus services, and promote transparency in financial decisions. I am running for Vice President Finance & Services because I genuinely want to help build a supportive, fair, and student-focused campus.

### Campaign Platform

#### Vision

My vision as Vice President Finance & Services is to build a campus where student money is managed responsibly, services are accessible and efficient, and student spaces are welcoming and supportive. I want every financial decision to reflect student needs and directly improve campus life. My leadership approach is based on honesty, transparency, and action.

#### Financial Transparency & Trust

Students deserve to know how their money is being used. I will work to make financial information clearer and easier to understand by promoting simple budget summaries, regular updates, and open communication. I will encourage student feedback and involvement in financial discussions so that decisions reflect

# Candidate Info



real student priorities. Transparency builds trust, and I am committed to maintaining that trust.

## Smarter Budgeting & Responsible Spending

With my background in Business Administration and experience managing finances in a family business, I understand the importance of careful budgeting. I will advocate for responsible spending that supports essential student services, academic resources, and student-led initiatives. By reducing unnecessary expenses and prioritizing meaningful investments, we can ensure that every dollar benefits students.

## Improving Student Services

Student services play a major role in daily campus life. I will work closely with campus partners and student representatives to improve service quality, efficiency, and accessibility. This includes better printing services, improved food options, comfortable study spaces, and faster responses to student concerns. My goal is to make services reliable, helpful, and student-centered.

## Stronger & More Inclusive Student Spaces

Student spaces should be comfortable, welcoming, and inclusive for everyone. I will support improvements to lounges, study areas, and common spaces to make them more functional and accessible. By improving these spaces, we can encourage collaboration, relaxation, and stronger student connections.

## Student Engagement & Wellbeing

A positive campus experience depends on engagement and wellbeing. I will support increased funding for student clubs, cultural programs, wellness activities, and campus events. These opportunities help students feel connected, reduce stress, and build a strong sense of community.

## Commitment

If elected, I promise to lead with honesty, responsibility, and dedication. I will listen to students, communicate openly, and work hard to turn ideas into action. My goal is to ensure that financial decisions and student services always reflect student needs and improve campus life.

## Maninder Singh

[No headshot provided.]

## Biography

I am Maninder Singh, originally from Patiala, Punjab, India, and I am currently pursuing a Business Administration diploma at Capilano University in British Columbia, Canada. My academic journey reflects my strong interest in finance, leadership, and strategic decision-making. I am passionate about understanding how financial systems work and how responsible budgeting and transparent management can strengthen organizations and create long-term impact.

Growing up in Patiala, I developed a deep sense of community and responsibility. I have always believed that leadership is not just about holding a title, but about serving others and creating opportunities for growth. During my time in India, I actively volunteered in community initiatives, including organizing and participating in clothing donation drives for people in need. Contributing to these efforts helped me understand the importance of empathy, teamwork, and social responsibility. These experiences shaped my character and strengthened my commitment to giving back to the community wherever I am.

Alongside academics and community service, I have also been dedicated to athletics. I am proud to have received first prize at the district level in powerlifting in India. Preparing for competition required discipline, consistency, and mental resilience—qualities that I apply to every

# Candidate Info



area of my life. Powerlifting taught me the value of setting clear goals, working systematically toward improvement, and pushing beyond perceived limits.

As a Business Administration student, I am continuously developing skills in financial analysis, budgeting, communication, and organizational management. I believe these skills, combined with my leadership mindset and strong work ethic, prepare me well for the role of Vice President Finance. I am committed to ensuring financial transparency, responsible allocation of resources, and strategic planning that supports student initiatives and long-term growth.

I am running for Vice President Finance because I want to contribute meaningfully to the student community at Capilano University. I am ready to bring dedication, accountability, and a results-driven approach to this role while representing students with integrity and professionalism.

## Campaign Platform

I am running for Vice President Finance because I believe strong financial leadership is the backbone of a successful and student-centered organization. As a Business Administration student at Capilano University, I have developed a solid understanding of accounting principles, budgeting, financial planning, and organizational management. I want to use this knowledge to ensure that student funds are handled with transparency, responsibility, and strategic vision. My goal is to make sure every dollar collected from students is used effectively to enhance student life, academic success, and campus engagement.

My first priority is financial transparency and open communication. Students deserve clear and accessible information about how their money is being spent. If elected, I will advocate for simplified financial reports that are easy to

understand, regularly updated, and shared openly with the student body. Transparency builds trust, and trust strengthens our organization. I will also encourage opportunities for students to ask questions and provide input on financial decisions so that budgeting becomes a collaborative process rather than something that happens behind closed doors.

My second priority is strategic budgeting and long-term sustainability. Responsible financial leadership means thinking beyond the present moment. I will work to ensure that funds are allocated not only to immediate needs but also to long-term projects that provide sustainable value. This includes supporting academic resources, student wellness initiatives, networking events, cultural activities, and skill-development opportunities. By balancing short-term benefits with long-term financial stability, we can ensure the organization remains strong for future students.

Another important focus of my platform is equitable and fair funding for student clubs and initiatives. Student organizations are essential to creating a vibrant campus community. I will advocate for clear funding guidelines and transparent criteria so that clubs understand how decisions are made. My goal is to make the funding process fair, efficient, and supportive, ensuring that innovative ideas and student-led projects receive the backing they deserve. I believe that empowering student leaders financially empowers the entire campus.

I am also committed to improving financial efficiency and accountability. This means reviewing current spending practices, identifying opportunities to reduce unnecessary expenses, and ensuring funds are used in the most impactful way possible. Efficient financial management does not mean cutting opportunities; it means maximizing value. By carefully analyzing expenditures and prioritizing high-impact initiatives, we can create greater

# Candidate Info



benefits for students without increasing financial strain.

Additionally, I want to promote financial awareness and education within our student community. Many students, including international students like myself, face financial challenges while balancing tuition, living expenses, and academic responsibilities. I would support initiatives such as budgeting workshops or informational sessions that help students build financial confidence and literacy. Empowering students with financial knowledge aligns directly with the responsibilities of the Vice President Finance.

Growing up in Patiala, India, I learned the importance of discipline, accountability, and service. My experience volunteering in clothing donation initiatives for people in need taught me that leadership begins with responsibility toward others. Winning first prize at the district level in powerlifting strengthened my resilience, focus, and goal-oriented mindset. These experiences shaped my character and prepared me to handle responsibility with integrity.

As an international student now studying in Canada, I understand the diverse perspectives and challenges within our campus community. I am committed to representing all students fairly and ensuring financial decisions reflect the needs of a diverse and growing student body.

If elected as Vice President Finance, I will lead with professionalism, honesty, and dedication. I will prioritize transparency, strategic planning, fairness, and efficiency in every financial decision. Most importantly, I will remain approachable and open to feedback, because effective leadership begins with listening.

Together, we can build a financially responsible, transparent, and forward-thinking student organization that creates meaningful opportunities and lasting value for every student.

## Candidates for Vice-President Equity and Sustainability

### Abhiraj Bhullar



### Biography

My name is Abhiraj Singh Bhullar, and I am a Bachelor of Science student at Capilano University pursuing biomedical sciences, driven by a passion for medicine and scientific research. I maintain a GPA of 3.23 and have been awarded the Dean's List twice during my academic career. I aspire to attend medical school while contributing to scientific research and community health.

Since arriving in Canada and joining Capilano University in 2023, I have actively engaged in the CapU community through leadership and volunteer initiatives. My journey began with Student Life, volunteering at the Fall 2023 Street Fair, which inspired me to pursue leadership opportunities. In 2024, I became an Orientation

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Leader, welcoming new students and supporting their transition to university life. Beyond campus, I became involved with Canadian Blood Services and founded the CSU club Capilano Blood for Life. As President since Summer 2024, I have led initiatives that contributed over 100 stem cell swab donations from CapU students. I also volunteered with Providence Health Care at Mount Saint Joseph Hospital, supporting geriatric physiotherapy and hospital navigation programs. Additionally, I serve as Project Manager at Enactus Capilano, leading a food sustainability project focused on community impact. Last year, I got a chance to serve as Student Critic for VP Student Affairs at CSU, where I presented constructive criticism to the Board of Directors in their proposed policy to students.

Through these experiences, I have learned resilience, service, and leadership – guided by my father’s teaching: burn like a candle, light up your surroundings, and never let the world dim your inner light.

## Campaign Platform

Abhiraj Singh Bhullar - Platform for Vice-President Equity & Sustainability

My Vision :- is to build a more inclusive, equitable, and environmentally responsible campus where all students feel supported, represented, and empowered to create meaningful change through impact. I aim to strengthen collaboration, improve access to resources, and develop sustainable initiatives that reflect student needs.

Priority 1: Student Voice Amplification, Community Impact, and Advocacy

I will strengthen student engagement by increasing opportunities for collaboration, consultation, and community involvement. Through workshops, and various outreach initiatives, I will ensure that student voices guide CSU priorities. My leadership experience

organizing initiatives such as the Capilano Blood for Life club and community health programs has shown me the power of student-driven change. I will build partnerships with student groups, external organizations, and provincial networks to amplify student concerns (increasing tuitions and living costs, student employment issues and any gender related violence in university life) promote equity and sustainability initiatives that create meaningful impact both on campus and beyond.

Priority 2: Building a Sustainable CapU Campus

Through my work with the EarthWorks environmental restoration initiative, I have seen the impact of community-driven sustainability and ecological awareness. I will work to transform CapU campus into a more environmentally responsible campus by expanding sustainability education, promoting campus restoration projects, and implementing green initiatives such as waste reduction campaigns and student-led environmental programs. With CSU support, I aim to develop sustainability frameworks inspired by practices at the University of British Columbia, focusing on climate responsibility, environmental awareness, and long-term ecological impact. My goal is to make sustainability an active part of student life through research, education, and collaborative community action.

Priority 3: Equity Through Education and Student Empowerment

As Vice-President Equity and Sustainability, I will strengthen equity and inclusion at CSU through education, student engagement, and by policy advocacy at university and provincial level. From my experience at workshops with Enactus Capilano and mentoring international students at CapU, I will develop accessible anti-oppression and equity workshops that empower student leaders resulting in a more inclusive campus culture. I will establish student feedback channels to identify barriers faced by

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marginalized communities and work with the CapU to advocate for equitable policies for student leader, senate and university students, meanwhile I will be working with the Alliance of BC Students at the provincial level. My goal is to create a campus environment where diversity is supported through education, representation, and meaningful participation in decision-making.

## Maria Gesualdi

[No headshot provided.]

### Biography

My name is Maria-Donatella Gesualdi, I started at Capilano University in the University One program and am currently taking general classes at Capilano, applying to go into the Bachelor of Kinesiology program. As I have been an avid dancer all my life, I am interested in rehabilitation therapy for the performing arts sector. I thrive in environments where I can put my multitasking, communication and problem solving skills to work. My passion for sustainability and equity developed through my work with Fresh Roots Urban Farm. In 2018, I worked with them as junior staff until 2021. where I learnt about urban farming, sustainability and started growing my leadership skills. Throughout this time, I also volunteered at the Vancouver Farmers Market at multiple locations. I later advanced to Program Facilitator positions in the summers of 2022 and 2023, where I designed and led workshops for youth to learn about life skills and sustainability. Last term, I was one of two Indigenous Student Ambassadors where, I worked with students and faculty to increase student engagement in the Kéxwusm-áyak Student Centre. I have navigated schooling all of my life within systems that do not always reflect or prioritize equity. Because of this, I have a deep, first hand understanding of the importance of accessible resources and culturally responsive programming.

### Campaign Platform

It was surprising to learn that the seat of the Vice President of Equity and Sustainability has been vacant until now. This position is too important a post to leave unattended, and if elected, I would do my best to make up for any lost time.

I want to do my part to promote social justice, represent marginalized groups, do anti-oppression outreach and anti-racism education. The reason the education component is important to me is that often, forms of racism and oppression are very subtle, and people don't realize they are being racist. It can be, and very often is, entirely subconscious. That is something I can do something about through promoting awareness. I would also like to address how students might respond when they experience racism or some form of oppression. I would like to reach out to the student body with an awareness campaign over the course of my term. The awareness campaign would have two threads. The first thread would be to ask, to find out what is currently working in terms of making students feel safe and included. I know, for instance, that my university has a strong ethic of care, and I do feel safe on campus, knowing that there are resources for me, for all students, but that is not always the case for everyone. The second thread would be to ask what needs improving. I think that, given the seat has been empty for a year, being visible and making the position of Vice-President of Equity and Sustainability more present in the community will be necessary: It would be outreach basically, to make sure that we are leaving all students feeling safe, heard, included. Even before my position of Indigenous student ambassador, I have spent countless hours in the Kéxwusm-áyakn Student Centre, listening to students. With this experience and the experience of being a queer woman, I am versed in what student centres require and feel

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confident in aiding to strengthen queer and women spaces.

There is also the matter of sustainability. Sustainability is all about fulfilling our role, we individually all have a role, to be environmental stewards of our planets resources. Here I would like to ask students how they think we can do better on the sustainability front. Indigenous ways of being and knowing are also crucial to equity and sustainability, so I will communicate with the schools Elders in residence, who I am already in contact with as an Indigenous student here at Capilano University. If elected, I will be focusing priority on growing the campus' culture to be rooted in inclusion and sustainability. My lived experiences will help me provide support for equity-seeking collectives.

## Prabal Gupta



### Biography

Currently, Prabal Gupta is pursuing his Diploma in Business Administration. Throughout this experience he has learned and continues to

learn about management, leadership, and decision-making. He has gained communications, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that he can use after his graduation. Prabal strives to better himself through each step of his education and hopes to take what he learns in school and apply it to real world scenarios.

### Community Service:

Prabal has spent time volunteering since a young age. He was part of a community team called Helping Hands in Jagraon, Punjab, India. As a team, they would help keep the city clean by organizing the people of Jagron to help clean the city and build parks. We would also go around and collect donations to help build the parks. The team has evolved into helping the elderly and less fortunate by providing them with food and shelter. Prabal was able to help contribute to this cause while he was serving. Prabal was also part of a group at his local community who would encourage people to educate their children and not allow them to participate in child labour. He helped raise awareness to local families about the importance of education and was able to convince them to send their children to school. He helped with cleaning the roads and parks.

### Leadership Experience:

As Head Boy of his High School, Prabal was responsible and had to lead by example. He exhibited leadership qualities such as being honest, reliable and having good communication skills. He helped represent his classmates, plan activities, and mediated between the school and students. Prabal was also a captain of a club in which he lead his team members. He helped plan events and encouraged his team members to collaborate to reach a goal.

Overall Prabal has learned to become a very responsible, community driven, and motivated

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individual through his education, volunteer work, and leadership roles.

## Campaign Platform

Capilano Students' Union

POSITION: VP Equity & Sustainability

Hello Students,

My name is Prabal Gupta and I am currently studying for a Diploma in Business Administration at CapU. I am running for VP Equity & Sustainability.

Why am I running?

Simple. Equity and sustainability should be responsibilities we all share. If we don't actively care for EVERY student, and our environment, what are we really doing as a university?

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My Promise

Make sure you know about me by the end of the race.

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My Platform

### 1. Foster an Inclusive Campus Environment

No student should feel singled out or marginalized. When I'm VP, I'll listen to students' needs from all backgrounds and will amplify the concerns of those who might not feel comfortable speaking out. I will also advocate for stronger partnerships between CSU and CU's cultural groups, accessibility centres, and student support services.

- \* Equity campaigns & education
- \* Anti-discrimination initiatives
- \* Mental health support & awareness
- \* International & minority student visibility

### 2. Take ACTION on Environmental Sustainability

Being sustainable shouldn't just be about awareness. It should be about taking action.

- \* Improve recycling & reduce waste
- \* Introduce reusable alternatives at CSU events
- \* Support student-initiated environmental efforts
- \* Host sustainability workshops

Yes, big changes start small at CU. But those small things can make a difference if we keep at them. I'm ready to take the small steps needed to reach our sustainability goals.

### 3. Ensure Events are Sustainable & Student Accessible

I'll work with CSU departments to make sure our events are sustainable and accessible to everyone. This means:

- \* Finding alternatives to single-use plastics
- \* Event venues that are wheelchair accessible
- \* Partnering with local, sustainable businesses
- \* Encouraging student participation in our volunteer committee

### 4. Hold Myself Accountable

If elected, I will be transparent about my goals for the term and provide students with progress updates. Sustainability and equity initiatives should be easy to track so students can see what we're doing and how they can help.

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Why I'm the Best

My past volunteer experience has taught me that real change happens through collaboration. It takes time and effort, but it's possible. My skills can help CU organize, engage, and follow through on actionable goals.

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Studying Business Admin has also provided me with the skills to strategize effectively and manage our resources wisely.

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Let's Get to Work

This position is a platform for action. I will take responsibility to better our union and advocate for what we know is right.

Vote Prabal Gupta for VP Equity & Sustainability, and let's make CHANGE happen.

Thanks for reading,

Prabal

## Candidates for Vice-President External

**Vansh Kalra**



### Biography

My name is Vansh Kalra, and I am a Business Administration diploma student at Capilano

University. I chose this program because I have always been interested in understanding how businesses operate, how leaders make decisions, and how organizations create value. I believe business education is not only about theory but also about building practical skills, leadership ability, and a professional mindset.

At Capilano University, I have developed a strong foundation in management, marketing, communication, and teamwork. Through coursework and group projects, I have strengthened my critical thinking and problem-solving skills while learning to collaborate with diverse teams. Studying in such a supportive and multicultural environment has broadened my perspective and helped me grow both academically and personally.

I currently serve as Vice President External for the Capilano Students' Union (CSU). In this role, I represent students and help build connections between the students' union and external organizations. I work closely with fellow executives to support student initiatives, promote engagement, and share student perspectives in meetings and discussions. This experience has strengthened my leadership skills, professionalism, and sense of responsibility. I have learned the importance of clear communication, accountability, and respectful collaboration.

Serving students has been one of the most meaningful parts of my university journey. It has taught me confidence, time management, and the value of service-based leadership. Moving to Canada and adapting to a new environment also helped me become more independent, disciplined, and resilient. I am proud of the growth I have achieved and remain committed to continuous self-improvement.

I am seeking nomination for Vice President External again because I want to continue representing students with honesty and dedication. My experience has prepared me to

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contribute effectively and help create a positive, inclusive campus environment.

## Campaign Platform

My name is Vansh Kalra, and I am a Business Administration diploma student living in Canada and currently serving as the Vice President External for the Capilano Students' Union. I am running for this position again because I am committed to continuing the work I have started and strengthening the voice of students both on and off campus. Over the past term, I have had the opportunity to represent students in external spaces, advocate for their needs, and build relationships that bring real value to our student community.

One of my main priorities is continuing the fight for a tuition cap for students. Tuition continues to increase, and this creates financial pressure and uncertainty for many students, especially international students. I believe education should remain accessible and fair. During my time as VP External, I have actively advocated for students by raising concerns about affordability and supporting efforts that push for more predictable and fair tuition policies. If re-elected, I will continue fighting for tuition caps and working with decision-makers to ensure student voices are part of these important conversations.

I have also been actively involved in lobbying efforts to represent students at higher levels. I have attended meetings with ministers, government representatives, and student alliance groups to bring forward the real concerns students are facing. Through these meetings, I have advocated for affordability, student support, and better opportunities. These experiences have helped me understand how change happens and how important it is for students to have strong and active representation. I will continue this lobbying work

to make sure Capilano students are heard and represented wherever decisions are being made.

Another key priority for me is strengthening external partnerships that create opportunities for students. This includes building relationships with local businesses, employers, and organizations that can provide student discounts, part-time jobs, internships, and networking opportunities. Students deserve opportunities that help them grow professionally and prepare for their future careers, and I will continue working to expand these connections.

Improving communication and transparency is also very important to me. I want students to feel informed about the work being done on their behalf and aware of the opportunities available to them. I will continue listening to students, bringing forward their concerns, and making sure their voices are represented honestly and effectively.

Lastly, I want to continue building an inclusive and supportive student community where every student feels represented. As someone who has already served in this role, I have the experience, relationships, and understanding needed to continue making progress. If re-elected, I will remain committed to advocating for tuition fairness, lobbying decision-makers, creating opportunities, and representing students with dedication and integrity. My goal is to continue being a strong and reliable voice for students and to help create a better and more supportive future for our student community.

# Candidate Info



## Bapneet Kaur



### Biography

I am currently a student pursuing higher education while building on the academic foundation I earned as a graduate from India. Completing my degree in India was an important milestone in my life, as it strengthened my knowledge, discipline, and commitment to continuous learning. Moving forward in my academic journey, I remain focused on personal growth, professional development, and meaningful contribution to my community.

Throughout my educational experience, I have consistently valued responsibility, teamwork, and leadership. I have taken initiative in group projects, supported classmates when needed, and actively participated in academic discussions. These experiences have helped me develop strong communication skills, adaptability, and confidence in collaborative environments.

Volunteering is something I genuinely love and take pride in. I believe giving back to the community not only supports others but also builds character and empathy. I have participated in volunteer activities that involved assisting at events, supporting community initiatives, and helping individuals in need. Through volunteering, I have learned the importance of patience, compassion, and service. It has also strengthened my ability to work with diverse groups of people and contribute positively to team efforts.

In addition to academics and volunteering, I continuously strive to improve myself both personally and professionally. Adjusting to new environments, managing responsibilities, and balancing studies with other commitments have been significant achievements for me. These experiences have made me resilient, organized, and goal-oriented.

I am motivated, hardworking, and committed to making a positive impact wherever I am involved. I look forward to continuing my academic journey, expanding my leadership experience, and contributing meaningfully to any community I am part of.

### Campaign Platform

I am running for this position because I genuinely care about our organization and the people who make it strong. I believe leadership is not about holding a title – it is about listening, representing, and taking action. If elected, my priority will be to ensure that every member feels heard, supported, and valued.

#### 1. Stronger Communication and Transparency

One of my main priorities will be improving communication between leadership and members. Clear communication builds trust. I will work to:

- Provide regular updates about decisions, events, and opportunities.

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- Create open channels where members can share feedback and concerns.

- Ensure transparency in how decisions are made and resources are used.

When members understand what is happening and why, they feel more connected and involved.

## 2. Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Environment

Our organization should be a space where everyone feels welcome, respected, and safe. I will prioritize:

- Promoting diversity and inclusion in all events and initiatives.

- Encouraging respectful dialogue and collaboration.

- Supporting members who may feel overlooked or unheard.

Everyone deserves equal opportunity to participate and contribute. I will actively advocate for fairness and accessibility.

## 3. Increasing Engagement and Participation

An organization thrives when its members are active and engaged. I plan to:

- Introduce new events and initiatives that reflect members' interests.

- Encourage more interactive and collaborative activities.

- Create opportunities for leadership development and skill-building.

By listening to what members want, we can design programs that are meaningful and exciting.

## 4. Accountability and Action

Good ideas only matter if they are followed by action. I will hold myself accountable by:

- Setting clear, realistic goals.

- Reporting progress regularly.

- Following through on commitments.

If challenges arise, I will address them honestly and work with others to find practical solutions.

## 5. Representation with Integrity

In this role, I will represent the voice of the members with integrity and respect. I will listen before making decisions, consider different perspectives, and prioritize what benefits the organization as a whole. Leadership should be collaborative, not one-sided.

In conclusion, I am running because I believe in the potential of this organization. With stronger communication, inclusive practices, active engagement, and accountable leadership, we can grow together and achieve more. I am committed to working hard, listening carefully, and leading with dedication and integrity.

I would be honored to have your support and the opportunity to serve.

# Candidate Info



## Parnit Kaur



### Biography

I am Parnit kaur (she/her). I am doing Honours in major psychology and this is my 3rd year.

Since the start of my journey at CapU in January 2024, I have also become a Student Digital Ambassador with the CTE and the CapU student model for 2025/2026. I have recently been acclaimed as the student senator of CapU. I have also become the student research assistant at Capilano university. I also work with the Capilano courier as a contributor (illustrator) . One of the great achievements is that Recently, I have been chosen as the District youth model for North Vancouver/ North Shore. Besides, I have also become the Guard Me ambassador, the international student mentor and peer student mentor to help my peers. I believe in commitment to my community outside of the university and I volunteer at the Guru Nanak Food Bank in Surrey and Delta. I also volunteered at the Carnegie community Centre

in downtown Vancouver where I supported learning activities for the local community at Main and Hastings as well as homeless individuals. It was an eye-opening experience and cemented my commitment to working in the field of psychology, particularly for those less fortunate people. One highlight of it is that, I was chosen as one the youngest cast member in The Mayor of Oz play, for the Heart Festival .I also recently started volunteering with a youth worker at Capilano community services (I work closely with youth).

Below given are some titles that I hold currently-

- STUDENT DIGITAL AMBASSADOR (SDA)
- STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT (SRA)
- WOMEN LIAISON (CSU)
- SENATOR OF CAPU
- DIRECTOR- CAPILANO STUDENT UNION
- CAPU STUDENT MODEL
- GUARD ME AMBASSADOR
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MENTOR
- CHAIRPERSON- COLLECTIVE LIAISONS COMMITTEE (CSU)
- RESEARCH MODEL AT CANTONESE OPERA VANCOUVER
- THE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR DEAN- FAS
- YOUTH MODEL- DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER/NORTH SHORE
- PEER STUDNET MENTOR
- SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLER- CAPUSDA
- ILLUSTRATOR- CAPILANO COURIER
- CAPU'S FORMER ORIENTATION LEADER

I am a member of the psychology club as well. Moreover, I have also worked as a volunteer with the Capilano student life department. I have also volunteered with the Let's talk WIL as their note

# Candidate Info



taker. I have also assisted as a volunteer for the peer- support program by taking part in several raining/workshop sessions and getting direct peer- support experience through the delivery of peer support to Capilano University students during a trail run of the program February/March 2025.

## Campaign Platform

I am running for Vice president external because I am really passionate about representing students beyond campus. Students really need someone who will responsibly bring their perspectives into those places confidently. I have a very great experience from all the work I have been doing and the most relevant is my experience as the women liaison that really strengthened my understanding of advocacy but with realistic promises. This experience made me realize that I really want to expand my impact deeply and externally. This executive position would allow me represent our CapU students more broadly in conversation with the external organizations, community partners and Government of Canada. In my thinking, representing is never about occupying a seat at the table, it is strictly about contributing very meaningfully to the discussion. I strongly think that leadership is all about responsible and serious commitment. I am not going to make any fake promises at all, I am running to commit to consistent efforts that I have been doing even in my daily life or when I do my other roles as well and the results are always positive. It is all always about always showing up prepared and give your best with your whole hard work. Through my very open communication, I really aim to strengthen our beautiful university's external presence and ensure that students feel informed and represented because it is really important step in the upcoming time. I am open to all the demands/concerns from the students and also the pending work that is in progress from past. As a women liaison, I have done a lot that I asked for and said and I am really

fortunate that I got the chance to do that work and became successful and I am really proud about it. I am again saying that I am not running for grand promises, I am running for great and strong commitments who would advocate professionally and would build great relationships. Affordability is one of the major concerns that students are facing these days. Housing, tuition and food cost impacts their well-being or mental health and I really want to work on this to make sure, the well-being of all our students/community are in good terms. In my view, One of the biggest challenges in such a great external role is that most of the work happens behind the scenes and students may not see what is going on or is in progress and if elected, I would like to make sure this time to provide crystal clear required information up to the mark to the students because transparency is not just reporting success, it is also about acknowledging when progress is slow or when challenges arise which is the part and parcel of this role. I also would like to add that I make myself always available and this is one the reason I am running for this position because it needs time and flexible availability.

I am ready to take that next step with full passion, dedication and interest to serve the students beyond campus now. I really want to make sure that our wonderful Capilano university students are actively present in the external outer world. As a women liaison, I learnt that advocacy begins with listening, understanding lived experiences by my peers. I will surely carry the legacy of my principals (hard work, not giving up) into representing the student body with the community as the VP external. Changes rarely happens overnight to be honest but it only happens if you are dedicated whole heartedly to your commitment and responsibility. My goal is to really make sure that the voices of students are heard in a professional and respectful way within the community. Also, very interesting, I really would

# Candidate Info

like to identify opportunities for students beyond campus which means with the community. I also think that students really deserve to know how they are being represented and by whom which would be only possible by giving regular updates by any mode. Being transparent will help students feel connected to external things very confidently and by all this, they will also get the knowledge and learn. I personally like building strong and very good relations between departments and I did that as the women liaison and this time, my focus is on strong and long-term friendly relationship with great organization which would benefit our students in the good terms. This role is a very great opportunity to connect student concerns or voices with the external student advocacy networks as well. While, my experience as the women liaison focused on advocating for a very specific group on campus but now this role is bringing an expanded form for me. My previous experience has really prepared me strong to go for this great and golden role. I worked directly with students, hold meeting alone and also did chairing, gathered feedback. Transparent communication really helped me a lot in succeeding. I really want to shine the name of Capilano university students brightly through my job that I want to do for them.

"For community, with community

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## Arman Salmani



### Biography

My name is Arman Salmani. I am a Business Administration student with a strong commitment to leadership, accountability, and continuous professional growth. My academic journey has strengthened my discipline, analytical thinking, and ability to perform in structured and responsible environments.

I began my career three years ago at Walmart as a Cashier and was promoted to Self-Checkout Attendant within two months. During this period, I successfully managed both roles simultaneously. I was later selected to join the store renovation team to support a major store transformation project at Walmart North Vancouver. After the successful completion of this project, I was asked by management to assist at Walmart Grandview during its recovery following a fire incident, demonstrating reliability and leadership in high-pressure situations.

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Throughout my experience, I have supported multiple departments including Electronics, Cosmetics, Pharmacy, HBA, Sports, and Seasonal operations. Currently, I hold three positions simultaneously. I have trained eight associates in Customer Service, two associates in Cash operations, and one associate in the Electronics Department. One of the current managers was previously trained under my guidance. I am also responsible for store closing procedures and cash management when managers are not present.

In addition to my professional experience, I have a strong competitive sports background. At the age of 15, I played as a goalkeeper for the U21 team of Badran in Iran. I am a provincial volleyball champion in Tehran Province and achieved third place in a provincial futsal championship. These experiences strengthened my teamwork, discipline, leadership, and ability to perform under pressure.

As Vice-President External, I will apply this experience in responsibility, strategic thinking, and leadership to effectively represent students and ensure their voices are heard in discussions with university leadership and external stakeholders.

## Campaign Platform

### Real Voices. Real Results

As Vice-President External, I will transform this role into a more active, visible, and results-driven position that truly connects students with external opportunities and leadership discussions. External representation must begin inside the university. Without consistent communication and a clear understanding of student priorities, external advocacy cannot fully represent our community. To ensure this connection, I will establish a permanent bi-weekly External Student Forum, creating a regular and structured space where students

can directly share feedback, ideas, and concerns. This will be a consistent part of the role. In addition, I will implement a formal feedback process before major external meetings so that student input directly shapes discussions and decisions. This will strengthen transparency and accountability in all external engagements. During my term, I will launch at least one major new external collaboration initiative, focusing on building meaningful partnerships with other universities or organizations. My goal is to expand relationships strategically in order to create new academic, leadership, and professional opportunities for students. I will also provide regular public updates summarizing external activities, partnerships, and progress, ensuring students clearly see what is being done on their behalf. Supporting international students will remain a core priority. I will actively represent their voices in external discussions and advocate for clearer communication and stronger institutional engagement on matters that affect their academic journey and future opportunities. Furthermore, I strongly support expanding student engagement in sports, arts, and student-led initiatives. These activities are not just extracurricular — they are an important part of student life. Sports programs help build teamwork, leadership, discipline, and school spirit. Arts programs encourage creativity, expression, and community engagement. By supporting collaboration with both internal groups and external partners, we can create more opportunities for participation, events, and shared initiatives. Expanding these areas will help students stay active, connected, and balanced during their time at university. My leadership will focus on action, consistency, and measurable outcomes. I am committed to making the External role proactive rather than reactive — focused on building connections, creating opportunities, and delivering real results for students.

# Candidate Info



## Candidates for Vice-President Student Affairs

### Karan Deep Nain



#### Biography

My name is Karan Deep Nain. I'm a third-year Psychology Honours student with a minor in Business. You might have seen me around campus, usually rolling through in my wheelchair between classes, or at the Rec gym most evenings.

I've been involved with the CSU throughout my time at CapU. I currently serve as the CSU's Accessibility Justice Coordinator, and I chair both the Governance Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and strengthening CSU's core policies and procedures, and the Finance & Audit Committee, which oversees financial policies and how student fees are allocated. I also sit on the Student Engagement

Committee, focused on improving how the CSU connects with and listens to its members.

Beyond the CSU, I've been part of the Accessible CapU Committee for over 18 months, working alongside university leadership to advance accessibility policy and ensure students with disabilities have meaningful input in institutional decisions. I've also had the opportunity to serve on senior leadership search committees for the University Registrar and VP Academic & Provost.

Last year, I joined the CSU's provincial lobbying team in Victoria, where we met with more than half of BC's MLAs and Cabinet Ministers to advocate for students. Major demands included pushing for a 2% domestic tuition cap, food security funding, an increased BC Access Grant, and improvements to the Sexual Violence Policy Act, among others.

I also served as an Orientation Leader for CapU Student Life last year and this year, helping new students get settled and find their place at CapU.

I live with an incomplete spinal cord injury and navigate campus in a manual wheelchair. Outside of academics and advocacy, I play wheelchair tennis and compete in wheelchair handcycle racing. That lived experience has shaped everything I understand about what accessibility, inclusion, and belonging actually require in practice, not just on paper.

That's ultimately why I'm running for VP Student Affairs. I know this campus well, I know how the CSU works, and I want to put that to use for students.

On that note, if you're looking for something fun and unexpected, come check out the CapU Campus Choir. It runs every Wednesday from 7 to 9 PM at Library 322, led by the wonderful Professor Hussein Janmohamed, and it's completely free.

# Candidate Info



## Campaign Platform

### Role Priority:

CSU has a lot going for it. But honestly, a lot of students move through their degree without ever really connecting to what's available here, all the services, the events, the community. That's the gap I want to close. I want to raise awareness of the services available and gather feedback from students on what's working best for them, and what they're enjoying the most.

### Making the CSU easier to understand:

The CSU is currently developing a CSU-101 course that will be available free on eLearn, that would walk students through every service, resource, and support available to them. This is one of the most practical things we can do to improve the student experience, and I want to help get it across the finish line as soon as possible. That means running surveys, town halls, and in-person tabling sessions to make sure student voices actually shape what goes into it, not only staff assumptions.

### Events Engagement:

The CSU runs great events, such as Captivate, Pancake Breakfast, Sex Toy Bingo, Massage Therapy, and others. But right now, we mostly measure success by counting heads. We can do better. I want to introduce a simple post-event feedback system using QR codes and short online surveys, so students can rate their experience, tell us what worked, what didn't and flag any accessibility barriers they ran into. That data should directly inform which events we grow, which we rethink, and where we invest. Student money should follow student interest.

I also want to start more low-barrier, low-commitment events on the calendar. Things like 30-minute trivia sessions or Coffee & Kahoot, where students can show up between classes, have a good time, and leave knowing

the CSU exists for them. Not every engagement has to be a two-hour commitment.

### More Support for Clubs:

From being part of clubs myself, I know funding is a genuine barrier for a lot of them. I want to gather feedback from club leaders and CSU club coordinator to make the case for directing more resources toward clubs that are consistently bringing students together, especially domestic students who have historically shown low engagement, and who are harder to reach through traditional channels.

### Senate Advocacy:

Representing CSU on the University Senate is one of the most important parts of this job. Two things I hear from students constantly: they want a Fall reading break, most BC universities already have one, and we do it in Spring, so it is totally possible to have a whole week reading break in Fall term too.

Next, the ongoing problem of course sections filling up or being cut, leaving second and third-year students unable to progress in their programs on schedule, and forced to finish their degree late. I will advocate clearly and consistently on both of these at the Senate level.

### Faculty and Campus Reps:

One of the most underused tools in this role is the relationship with faculty and campus representatives. I want to establish monthly roundtable meetings with representatives from each faculty, such as Arts & Sciences, Fine & Applied Arts, Business, Education, Global & Community Studies, to hear directly what their students want and need. Different departments have different student populations with different needs. Fine and Applied Arts, for example, has a high proportion of domestic students. The MOPA building is largely disconnected from CSU activity. I want to change that through direct

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outreach, meaning going to where students are to gather their feedback.

Continuing Good Work:

Programs like the Holiday Hamper, Device Doctor, and the SPC card are genuinely valuable, but many students don't know they exist. Alongside expanding our social media presence with content that is actually engaging rather than just informational, I want to make sure these programs reach the students who need them most.

## Kash Makker



### Biography

My name is Kash, and I am a Biomedical Sciences student at Capilano University who is deeply passionate about student advocacy, leadership, and creating inclusive, supportive campus communities. My journey at CapU has been shaped not only by academics but by a strong commitment to serving students, building

meaningful connections, and working to improve the student experience in practical, lasting ways.

I immigrated to Canada three years ago, stepping into a new country, education system, and culture all at once. Like many students, especially international and newcomer students, I faced challenges related to financial pressure, mental health, adjusting to academic expectations, and finding a sense of belonging. Navigating university life taught me resilience, empathy, and the importance of accessible student services. These experiences are what ultimately inspired me to become deeply involved in student leadership and advocacy.

From my earliest days at CapU, I look out for opportunities to connect with campus life beyond the classroom. I joined CapU Student Life's team, where I worked directly with students to create welcoming environments through orientation programs, campus events, and peer support initiatives. Through this role, I helped welcome new students to campus, organized interactive activities, and supported events designed to reduce isolation and foster community. Seeing students arrive nervous and leave feeling confident and connected showed me the transformative power of intentional student engagement.

One of my proudest accomplishments has been organizing and leading student-centered initiatives that brought together different departments, services, and student groups. Me and my coworker Niko created and led "The Great Campus Heist," a mystery-themed campus-wide engagement event where students explored university services, collected clues, and learned about academic and wellness resources in a fun and interactive way. This event not only increased student participation but also strengthened awareness of key support services many students may have never accessed before.

I also helped develop "Cheers to Peers," an initiative focused on recognizing student

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leaders, volunteers, and peers who contribute positively to campus life. Through creative activities, appreciation events, and community engagement, this program emphasized gratitude, mental well-being, and belonging, values I strongly believe are essential to a healthy student experience.

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## Campaign Platform

As Vice President Student Affairs, my vision is to create a campus where every student feels supported, included, and empowered to succeed both academically and personally. University life is about much more than attending classes – it is about mental well-being, community, leadership development, and having access to resources that allow students to thrive. My goal is to strengthen the student experience by focusing on care, connection, and student voice.

One of my top priorities is improving student well-being and access to support services. Many students struggle with mental health challenges, financial stress, academic pressure, and feelings of isolation, especially in today's environment. I believe that support systems should be easy to access, clearly communicated, and responsive to real student needs. I will work closely with the CSU and university administration to expand awareness of counseling services, promote financial assistance programs, strengthen food security initiatives, and advocate for additional mental health resources. No student should feel lost when they need help, and I am committed to making support visible and approachable.

Building a strong and connected campus community is another core focus of my platform. Through my experience organizing student events and engagement initiatives, I have seen how meaningful connection improves student confidence, belonging, and overall well-being. I want to support more student-led

programming, cultural celebrations, peer initiatives, and low-cost social events that bring students together across different programs and backgrounds. Whether a student is commuting, international, domestic, mature, or new to campus, they should feel welcomed and involved in campus life.

Student voice and representation are essential to effective student leadership. As Vice President Student Affairs, I will prioritize open communication and transparency by regularly hosting student forums, feedback sessions, and accessible opportunities for students to share concerns and ideas. I will actively bring student perspectives to CSU meetings and university decision-making spaces to ensure policies and services truly reflect student needs. My goal is to create a culture where students feel heard and confident that their feedback leads to action.

I am also passionate about supporting leadership development and preparing students for life beyond university. Student involvement builds transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, organization, and problem-solving. I will work to expand leadership opportunities within CSU, student clubs, and campus initiatives while strengthening connections between student engagement and career development resources. By supporting volunteer programs, mentorship initiatives, and experiential learning opportunities, I aim to help students graduate not only with a degree but with confidence and real-world skills.

Clear and effective communication is a major challenge across campus, and improving it is a priority for me. Many students miss out on events, funding opportunities, and services simply because information is scattered or unclear. I will work to strengthen CSU outreach through social media, email campaigns, in-person promotion, and simplified resource guides so students can easily access what they need. Better communication means greater

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participation, stronger community, and better support outcomes.

Ultimately, I am running for Vice President Student Affairs because I truly care about the student experience at Capilano University. I bring hands-on experience in student engagement, advocacy, mentorship, and collaboration, along with lived experience navigating the challenges many students face. I am committed to leading with empathy, transparency, and action.

My promise is to listen, advocate, and work consistently to improve student life. Together, we can create a campus that supports well-being, celebrates diversity, empowers leadership, and ensures every student feels valued and heard.

## Pannu



## Biography

I, Vanshdeep Pannu, a Communication Studies student at Capilano University who believes student life should be more than just going to

class and going home. As an international student, I understand what it's like to start fresh in a new environment while balancing studies, work, and everyday responsibilities.

Before coming to university, I was actively involved in many activities, including sports like football and cricket, as well as dance, skating, and public speaking. Being active and social has always been a big part of who I am, which helped me to build confidence, connect with people easily, and bring positive energy to my surroundings.

Alongside my studies, I work part time and I have a strong interest in creative fields like video editing and DJing. I enjoy music, creativity, and the idea of bringing people together through shared experiences, which is something I hope to bring more of into campus life.

Through balancing work and academics, I have seen how easy it is for students to feel disconnected or too busy to enjoy campus life. This is what motivated me to run for Vice President, Student Affairs – to help create a more engaging, inclusive, and happy campus experience.

I want to focus on building a stronger sense of community, improving student engagement, and making campus life something students genuinely enjoy being a part of.

## Campaign Platform

As a candidate for Vice President, Student Affairs, I want Capilano to feel like a real campus community—not just a place we show up for class and leave right after. A lot of students are juggling lectures, assignments, jobs, commuting, and family responsibilities. When life is that busy, it's easy to feel disconnected. My goal is to make student life easier to access, more welcoming, and genuinely worth being part of.

1. Events students actually want (and can actually attend)

# Candidate Info



I will push for student events that match how students live today: interactive, low-pressure, and varied. That means a mix of small and big events—game nights, cultural nights, open-mic/talent showcases, sports drop-ins, themed study sessions, wellness days, and “meet-someone-new” socials. I also want more events scheduled at different times (not just one time slot) so students who work can still show up. If we’re spending student fees, the events should feel relevant, fun, and inclusive—not repetitive.

## 2. Better communication and real student input

Students should not feel like the union is far away or hard to reach. I will be visible and approachable on campus and online, and I’ll create simple ways for students to share feedback (quick polls, suggestion forms, pop-up tables, and “talk to me” hours). More importantly, I’ll follow up. If students raise issues, I’ll report back on what’s being done, what the limits are, and what the next steps will be. Trust comes from consistency, not promises.

## 3. Stronger support for student well-being and belonging

Student Affairs should support the full student experience—mental health, connection, and belonging. I’ll work to promote clearer access to supports already available and advocate for more student-friendly initiatives during high-stress periods (midterms/finals). I also want to help new and international students feel included by supporting welcoming activities that make it easier to build friendships and navigate campus.

## 4. Opportunities that build skills and confidence

I want more chances for students to get involved and build experience—volunteer roles, event teams, and leadership opportunities that are low-barrier and open to beginners. I’m interested

in creative spaces too (music, DJ, media, editing), and I want to help students showcase their talents through safe, organized campus events.

My bottom line is simple: student life should be something you enjoy, not just something you get through. I will work to make Capilano more connected, more active, and more supportive for everyone.

## Sandeep Singh



## Biography

My first name is Sandeep Singh and I am doing Associate of Arts course at Capilano University. My academic life demonstrates that I believe in life long learning, leadership, and serious community service. I was blessed with the privilege of being the Head Boy in Dasmesh Convent School. I worked in this position as the representative of the student body, organizer of school activities, and the interface between students and faculty. I assisted in conducting assemblies, academic and cultural programs, as

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well as promoting teamwork and discipline among students. This experience not only enhanced my leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills but it also taught me the value of being responsible and upright. I am also engaged in active volunteer activity with Pingalwara Charitable Society. I have helped homeless, elderly, and differing-abled people through this organization thereby assisting them in care and rehabilitation projects. Our partners are rehabilitation centers and schools where we deliver free education and deliver books and other necessary materials to needy students. I have also participated in any environmental activities by assisting to distribute plants to schools, colleges and NGOs to enhance sustainability and environmental consciousness. On top of this, I also assist in planning youth activities in which we are able to arrange games, interactive activities and team building activities to the youth. The events will help them develop personally, foster confidence, and socialize. Children are also surprised with books and other helpful things to encourage them and make their lives happier. My academic studies, leadership, and volunteer experiences have helped me to build on empathy, resilience, and a sense of strong commitment to serving the community. I strive to keep on with my education and leadership capabilities to make a positive change and help others achieve their full potential.

## Campaign Platform

My name is Sandeep Singh, and I am feeling very proud to be a candidate in this Student Union elections as a vice-president, student affairs. I am a candidate as I feel that the Student Union ought to have a powerful, proactive presence of students and an active leadership of an interesting and supportive student life. All the students should be made to feel represented, included, and empowered and I am determined to make it a reality. In case of election, I will be mainly concerned with enhancing student

participation across all areas of campus life. Student Union is crucial in creating and managing programs and events that help students in their social, recreational, academic and wellness requirements. I plan to organize more engaging activities and events such as cultural festivals, sports and recreational tournaments, club projects, group games workshops that help all students to learn new skills for their careers. These programs will not only unite students but also make them develop confidence, leadership skills and deep meaningful relationships outside the classroom. I also conduct surveys to find out what types of activities students really want and after this, I try to work on those types of events and activities. I want student life to be more welcoming, lively, friendly and enjoyable, where every student feels free to participate and contribute. Another main agenda in my platform will be wellness. Life at the university is not easy and there are a lot of students who are stressed, pressured, and uncertain, especially during midterms and final exams. I will promote more prominent wellness programs, particularly midterms and finals, stress-relief programs, and awareness campaigns about support services, easy access to mental health resources. An effective Student Union ought to do more than just organizing events but also work towards the welfare of the students. Communication and representation are central to the Vice-President, Student Affairs role. I will work closely with the university representatives, the faculty staff and the university leadership to be able to clear out student concerns. I will also organize open forums and frequent feedback to allow the students to present their ideas and problems directly. My goal is to create an environment where no student feels alone or ignored. Every student should feel confident that their voice matters and that they can help bring positive change to our university. I will also be a vocal and responsible advocate of policies that will be beneficial to the students. The representation

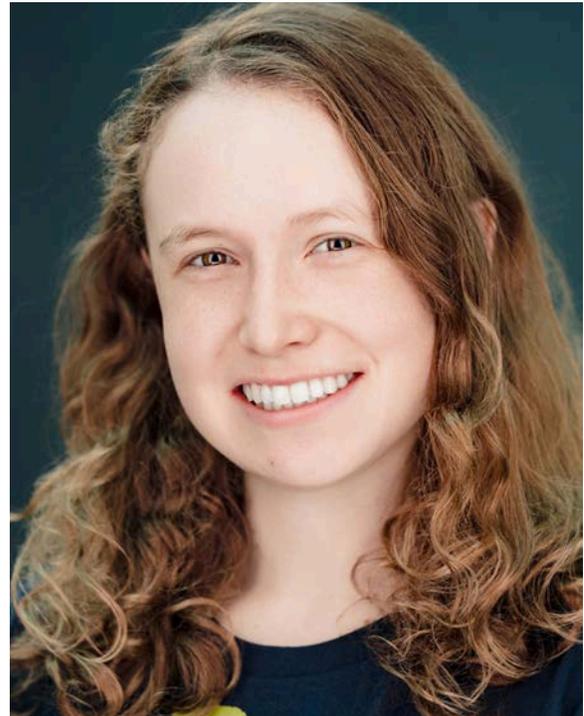
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should be open, fair and responsible. The concept of inclusiveness will bring all my initiatives. I would enhance cross-organizational interactions between the clubs and student groups as these various communities are not to be separated. I also support mentorship programs for first-year and international students to help them feel more comfortable and welcome. In addition to these goals, I believe transparency and accountability are essential qualities of strong leadership. I will ensure that students are regularly informed about Student Union decisions, budgets, and upcoming initiatives so that every student feels involved in this process. I believe leadership is about the roles and actions, not just making promises. If I elected, I will stay active, approachable for everyone, and always ready to help whenever students need support. I also believe teamwork is the key to success. I will work with student leaders, clubs and volunteers to make sure every event is well organized and meaningful. When we all work as a team, we can achieve more and create a stronger student community. This is an election of a Student Union with the view of having a more developed and united student body. I am willing to listen, willing to lead and willing to serve. With your help, we are able to establish a Student Union that is representative, supportive and inspiring to all students.

## Candidate for Mature and Parent Students Liaison

**Emily Kelsall**



### Biography

Emily Kelsall (she/they) is a long-time environmental activist, social advocate, and writer. Born and raised on unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Emily began her career in activism at 15, when she started advocating for warning labels on gas pumps to alert drivers to the effects of climate change. In her early 20s, Emily began tree-sitting to protest the TMX pipeline expansion. She wrote extensively about her experience, publishing articles in the National Observer and Chatelaine magazine. Emily co-founded the comedy/activist group T-Rex against TMX, combining humour and direct action to protest the expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline in BC. Her videos

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reached thousands of viewers across North America and successfully infused the local environmental scene with a sense of levity and community. Emily is passionate about social justice and mental health, and the politics of rest in a world preoccupied with growth. Emily is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts program at Capilano University. She hopes to use her passion for storytelling to connect people with themselves and the planet. In her spare time, she enjoys learning Mandarin Chinese and running.

## Campaign Platform

My number one priority, if elected as your Mature & Parent Students Liaison, is to secure reliable, rapid transit to campus. For many of us, time is our most precious commodity. Currently, thousands of students spend upwards of three hours a day commuting from home to campus, often navigating a gauntlet of multiple transfers and unreliable connections. This is not just an inconvenience; it is a barrier to education.

I intend to work directly with the Capilano Students' Union (CSU) to petition TransLink for the development of a dedicated rapid bus service connecting Surrey and other underserved regions directly to CapU. A streamlined transit system would drastically ease the physical and financial burden the student body faces, allowing parents more time with their children and mature students more time to balance their professional lives. We shouldn't be exhausted before we even reach the classroom.

Beyond infrastructure, I am committed to the ethical integrity of our institution. I will advocate fiercely for Capilano University to divest from fossil fuels. We are here to invest in our futures, yet it is a profound contradiction to fund our education through industries that compromise the very planet we will inherit. The capital we contribute to this university must work in tandem with our values. It is time our

endowment and investment portfolios reflect a commitment to a liveable, sustainable world.

Finally, I am here to be a primary advocate for the unique needs of mature and parent students. Our demographic faces a specific set of pressures: the juggle of holding down careers, the rising costs of rent and childcare, and the mental load of returning to academia later in life. I will listen to your concerns and ensure that the university provides the necessary flexibility and resources to help us succeed. Whether it is advocating for more family-friendly spaces on campus or pushing for asynchronous learning options, I will ensure our voices are not just heard, but prioritized.

We are not just students; we are the backbone of the community. I ask for your vote to help me build a campus that respects our time, our planet, and our diverse lived experiences.

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## Candidate for Women Students Liaison

### Manjot Kaur



#### Biography

I am Manjot Kaur and a 3rd year psychology student who continues to maintain a 4.0 GPA and a consistent place on the merit list. My academic excellence reflects my commitment, dedication and passion for interpreting human behavior and development. Beyond the academics, I also actively volunteer at local gurudwara where I take part in the community initiatives to help and serve. Being an active part of the community helps me be an empath, teaches me team work, and create spaces where people feel valued and cared for.

My leadership journey began in high school where i served two years as the President of the psychology club and helped foster discussions about mental health and well being along with

organizing, coordinating and supervising several events throughout my terms.

As a candidate for women students liaison, I commit to empowering every single self-identifying women, advocate for them during policy making while contributing to campus safety, inclusivity and representation so no women feel excluded and unsupported.

#### Campaign Platform

I, Manjot Kaur, am running for women students liaison (for year 2026-2027) because I believe the success to women empowerment would come from a product of representation, advocacy and connection.

My goals are crystal clear that I want to strengthen emotional networks on the Capilano campus. I promise to not only advocate for all women behind the closed doors but also help them form connections amongst them. University can become really stressful and overwhelming sometimes and being a women can add a stress of it's own. Along with the betterment of the existing women center, I want to create more safe spaces for women where they can come together and be seen, heard and supported all throughout campus.

My priorities go beyond the traditional leadership, drawing on my psychological background I want to focus on more personal well being and foster conversations and normalize seeking help when needed. I plan on coordinating with different departments of the Capilano university (peer support program, sexual violence, virgo strength club etc.) to ensure that I can do everything in my power to make sure the needs of every self identifying women are met throughout my term and beyond.

Some of my plans include organizing meeting once every two weeks to listen to ongoing concerns and issues on campus to guarantee that i don't stay blind to the needs of the women

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on campus, as an international student, I understand the unique challenges faced by individuals of different backgrounds and how hard navigate those might be. I also plan on building a discord to help women meet and organize independent or planned meet-ups or just gossip to unload the stress.

Being a women, I understand that the female friendships and connections can be meaningful in times of stress and personal challenges, in my time as women students liaison I plan on building supportive community where anyone can come to be uplifted and feel supported.

My definition of leadership is not just representing voices but also help them connect.

## Candidate for Arts and Sciences Representative

**Tushar Sachdeva**



## Biography

I am currently pursuing an Associate of Science degree at Capilano University, where I have developed a strong academic foundation in analytical thinking, problem-solving, and scientific reasoning. My studies have strengthened my interest in research, data analysis, and community-focused initiatives, while also helping me build discipline, adaptability, and collaboration skills. I'm passionate towards student advocacy, working for students, as being a student I understand how difficult student life can get if their voices are not heard.

Beyond academics, I am actively involved in student leadership and campus engagement. I'm the current Arts and Sciences Faculty Representative at CSU, member of CSU committees (University Affairs, Governance Committee, Campaigns and Advocacy, Events and services, Finance and Audit), also representing students concerns in FAS Dean Student Advisory Council. I also lobbied for students' rights with Provincial government in Victoria. Through these experiences, I have participated in student forums, engaged with peers, and worked to better understand and represent the needs of the student. These opportunities have strengthened my public speaking, leadership, and decision-making skills.

I also volunteered for United Way BC, Student Research Symposium, worked as an Orientation leader with Student life to help the new students. Being the President of Capilano Boxing Club and other voluntary works have enhanced my teamwork, project management, and technical skills, while reinforcing my commitment to creating meaningful, positive impact.

In addition, I have pursued independent academic projects, including scientific computing simulations and programming-based

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applications, which have further developed my initiative, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.

I take pride in my cultural background and values, which guide my work ethic and commitment to service. My experiences reflect a consistent dedication to growth, leadership, and contributing positively to my academic community.

## Campaign Platform

As a candidate for Arts and Science Representative, my platform is built on advocacy, accessibility, and accountability. My goal is to ensure that students in Arts and Science programs are not only heard but actively represented in decision-making spaces.

Tuition increases continue to create financial strain for domestic and international students alike. Education is an investment in society, not a privilege for those who can afford it. I will advocate for clear communication around tuition decisions, stronger student consultation before fee increases. I will work to ensure that any discussion around tuition includes meaningful student representation.

Many Arts and Science students face challenges registering for required courses due to limited seat availability. This delays graduation timelines and increases financial pressure. I will push for better forecasting of course demand, increased course sections where possible, transparent waitlist systems, stronger communication between departments and students, timely graduation should not depend on luck during course registration.

Expensive textbooks are a major financial barrier. Students often pay hundreds of dollars per semester for materials that are sometimes used only partially. I will advocate for a stronger shift toward Open Educational Resources (OER), with the help of student Senate Representatives, which provide free or low-cost learning materials while maintaining academic quality. This

includes, encouraging faculty adoption of OER, providing institutional support for professors, increasing awareness among students about OER options, tracking and reporting cost savings to demonstrate impact. Reducing textbook costs directly increases accessibility and equity in education.

As Arts and Science Representative, I will prioritize regular communication with students through surveys, and open feedback channels. Representation must go beyond attending meetings, it requires active engagement and follow-through. My commitment is to bring student concerns directly to decision-making tables, provide updates on advocacy progress, collaborate with other representatives to amplify impact, ensure Arts and Science students have a strong, informed voice.

I have actively participated in provincial lobbying efforts in Victoria, meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly to advocate for students across British Columbia. Through these discussions, I addressed issues such as rising tuition, affordability, and the long-term sustainability of post-secondary education.

With the ongoing BC post-secondary education review, this is a critical moment for student voices to shape the future of our education system. I will continue pushing for transparent funding models, stronger financial support for students, and policies that protect accessibility. Students should not bear the burden of funding gaps through tuition hikes.

# Candidate Info



## Candidate for Business and Professional Studies Representative

### Aseem Narula

[No headshot provided.]

#### Biography

At present, I Aseem Narula student ID: 100188903 as a student at Capilano University studying Business and Professional Studies. I am building my skills in communication, collaboration, ethics, and organizational leadership, thanks to my coursework in business administration, and my professional development. I have learned a great deal about the role of professionalism, accountability, and collaboration in representing my student peers.

On top of my studies, I have also been able to develop my leadership skills and my ability to work in a team while employed as a back-of-house cook at an Indian restaurant. My experience in a high-pressure, high-volume cooking environment has helped me refine my time management, communication and teamwork skills. I have learned about responsibility, flexibility, and the value of helping others to reach a common objective.

In group projects in class, I have also exercised leadership by defining roles, stimulating contributions, and ensuring work was done on time, as well as advocating for respectful communication and inclusive environments to ensure all participants could contribute to the discussion.

#### Campaign Platform

As a student in Business & Professional Studies at Capilano University, I understand the importance of having a representative who listens, communicates clearly, and takes action. My goal is to serve as a strong, reliable bridge

between students and faculty while helping improve the overall academic and professional experience within our program.

My campaign is built on four key priorities: communication, academic support, career readiness, and student engagement.

#### 1. Strengthening Communication and Transparency

Effective representation begins with listening. I will prioritize open communication by regularly gathering feedback from students about concerns related to coursework, scheduling, resources, and program development. I plan to create simple feedback channels—such as surveys or informal discussions—so students feel comfortable sharing their ideas.

I will also ensure that important updates from faculty and administration are communicated clearly and consistently to students.

Transparency builds trust, and every student deserves to know what decisions are being made that affect their education.

#### 2. Enhancing Academic Support

Business and Professional Studies programs can be demanding, and students often balance academics with work and family responsibilities. I will advocate for improved academic support resources, including better awareness of tutoring services, writing assistance, and study workshops.

Additionally, I will work to identify common academic challenges within courses and bring constructive suggestions to faculty. My goal is not just to raise concerns, but to collaborate on solutions that improve learning outcomes for everyone.

#### 3. Expanding Career Readiness Opportunities

As business students, career preparation is one of our top priorities. I will advocate for more networking opportunities, guest speakers, workshops, and industry connections that help

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students prepare for the job market. Practical exposure—such as resume-building sessions, interview preparation workshops, and employer panels—can significantly enhance our professional confidence.

I also believe in promoting experiential learning opportunities, including internships, co-op placements, and work-integrated learning. These experiences help students apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings and increase employability after graduation.

#### 4. Building a Stronger Student Community

A successful program is more than academics—it is about connection and collaboration. I will encourage initiatives that promote engagement among Business & Professional Studies students, such as networking events, peer mentorship opportunities, and collaborative study groups.

Creating a supportive and inclusive environment will help students feel more connected to their program and motivated to succeed. Every student, regardless of background or experience level, should feel valued and heard.

#### My Commitment

With my experience balancing academics and hands-on work in a fast-paced environment, I understand responsibility, teamwork, and accountability. If elected, I promise to represent students with professionalism, integrity, and dedication. I will listen actively, communicate clearly, and advocate respectfully.

Together, we can strengthen our Business & Professional Studies program, enhance student experiences, and create more opportunities for academic and professional success.

Thank you for your support.

## Candidate for Education, Health, and Human Development Representative

### Simran Randhawa

[No headshot provided.]

#### Biography

I am an International student in the Early Childhood Care and Education program at Capilano University, where I study child development, equity, inclusion, and the impact of social systems on human well-being. My education has shaped how I see the world; not just through theory, but through understanding how policies, environments, and relationships directly influence people's growth, mental health, and sense of belonging.

Beyond the classroom, I have gained hands-on experience supporting children and families in caregiving roles and community settings. Working closely with young children has strengthened my patience, empathy, and ability to truly listen. I have learned that development is not just about milestones; it is about feeling safe, heard, and valued. This belief guides how I approach leadership and community involvement.

Balancing university with part-time work has taught me discipline, time management, and resilience. Being a working student has also given me insight into the real challenges many students face; financial stress, academic pressure, and maintaining mental well-being. These experiences have deepened my commitment to advocacy, particularly around accessibility, mental health awareness, and equitable support systems within educational spaces.

I have worked in diverse team environments where collaboration and communication were

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essential. I am comfortable engaging with people from different backgrounds and perspectives, and I believe strong leadership begins with active listening and respectful dialogue.

I am passionate about creating inclusive spaces where students feel represented and empowered. I want to contribute to a campus culture that prioritizes both academic success and holistic well-being. Through leadership, collaboration, and meaningful action, I hope to support initiatives that strengthen our faculty and ensure every student feels their voice matters.

## Campaign Platform

As a candidate for Education, Health & Human Development Representative, my platform focuses on strengthening student well-being, increasing transparent representation, and building stronger community connections within our faculty.

Students in Education, Health, and Human Development programs are preparing to enter caring and service-oriented professions. We are future educators, support workers, health advocates, and community leaders. However, many of us are also balancing work, financial responsibilities, caregiving roles, and academic demands. My first priority is to advocate for stronger wellness support tailored specifically to students in helping professions. This includes promoting mental health awareness initiatives, burnout prevention conversations, and accessible peer-support opportunities in collaboration with existing CSU wellness resources.

Second, I want to make representation more active and visible. Many students are unaware of how the Students' Union operates or how board decisions impact their academic experience. If elected, I will prioritize consistent communication with students in our faculty. This

could include brief updates after board meetings, accessible feedback forms, and open spaces for discussion. Representation should not feel distant, it should feel responsive and accountable.

Third, I aim to strengthen engagement within our faculty by supporting events and initiatives that reflect our academic focus. This could include panel discussions on equity in education and healthcare, workshops on inclusive practices, and networking opportunities that connect students across programs. Building connections across disciplines reduces isolation and encourages collaboration, which is essential in human development fields.

Accessibility and equity will remain central to my work. Our faculty studies inclusion, yet we must continuously ensure that our campus practices reflect those values. I am committed to advocating for policies and initiatives that support marginalized and underrepresented students, promote culturally responsive approaches, and ensure learning environments are accessible to all.

As a working student, I understand the pressures many of us face. I bring empathy, responsibility, and lived experience to this role. I am not running simply to hold a title but I am running to listen, to communicate clearly, and to take meaningful action that reflects student voices.

My goal is to help create a faculty environment where students feel informed, supported, and empowered; academically, socially, and personally. Through collaboration with the CSU and with fellow students, I am committed to strengthening both representation and well-being within Education, Health & Human Development.

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## Candidate for Fine and Applied Arts Representative

### Simeon Sanford Blades



#### Biography

My name is Simeon Sanford Blades. I am in the jazz program at Capilano, am a volunteer student representative for the Fine & Applied Arts on the faculty council, and am the treasurer of the Capilano Fruit Club. I have done volunteering at the Shadbolt Center, and Victoria High School. I went to high school in Victoria, B.C. and have spent a lot of time in the arts scene. My mother is an award winning author, I do photography in my spare time, and most of all, I play music! I've been playing saxophone since I was in Grade six and it is a huge part of my life. I've played in the Island Big Band and the Commodores Big Band. I play small group jazz around Vancouver and Victoria. I also played with the absurdist rock band SHARON, and in an ambient improvised project called The Billipede.

I already have personal connections with people in many programs across the faculty, and would love to meet more, to make sure that the needs of all students—not only jazz students—are met. I will be a voice in the student union for everyone in the fine and applied arts faculty, and will make a real, tangible difference if you vote for me.

#### Campaign Platform

As Fine & Applied Arts Representative I will be making your life as a student easier. I will focus on small, achievable quality-of-life improvements across the whole faculty.

A very high priority item of mine is to make the FIR building open 24/7 like the MOPA building. Jazz students spend every spare moment practicing, but have to deal with getting kicked out of the FIR building and calling security on weekends just to practice. This is unfair to all students, but especially those whose living situations don't allow them to practice at home.

A small but important change I will make as student representative is to keep the cafes in the FIR and MOPA buildings open for longer. There is no reason for them to close so early in the day and it would benefit students and the school to keep them open for longer.

A faculty-wide problem I will address is the unrestricted use of A.I. by our professors. They use it without any discussion of the ethical issues surrounding it. Especially in Fine & Applied Arts, we need to push back as hard as we can against A.I. and some of our professors are setting a dangerous example. I will make sure that professors are held accountable and that they realise that A.I. is not something students want to see in our faculty.

Another improvement I will make is to create more opportunities for collaboration within the Fine & Applied Arts faculty. So much of our time as artists is spent working on other peoples' projects, but this is not facilitated at Cap. I'm not talking about adding entire courses to your

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already busy schedule, but small things. For example, instead of using A.I. to make posters for the concerts put on by the jazz program, professors could commission the illustration students. For the fourth-year MOPA music video projects, students looking to make a music video could be connected with. Things like this can be done easily and will create the bigger sense of community that students are looking for within the faculty.

I also have ambitious plans for a Capilano Fine & Applied Arts Festival! Capilano's arts are not celebrated as they should be. There should be a weekend at the end of the year where students in each program show off their talents in a paid format. There can be live jazz shows and theatre productions, film and animation screenings, and a gallery for visual artists to display their work. I think a festival like that would bring all of Cap closer together and would be a great way for students to find out what's happening in all programs of the faculty, as well as a way to bring in new students.

For a program-specific change in jazz, I will crack down on the scheduling. The scheduling is less than ideal in the jazz program. The huge gaps and awkward timings of courses are talked about constantly among students. I will work with Daniel Hersog, the program coordinator, to make sure the schedule is a reason to join the Capilano Jazz Studies program, not something people warn you about before applying.

For the MOPA program, I will address students not being able to use follow focus until third year. Capilano claims they want to prepare people for the real world of filmmaking, but if you are doing the diploma program you won't even get to use follow focus. Not letting second year students use follow focus also restricts creativity at a point in their life where they have the time to make something they really care about. But instead this pushes students to make a low effort project for school, and then use all

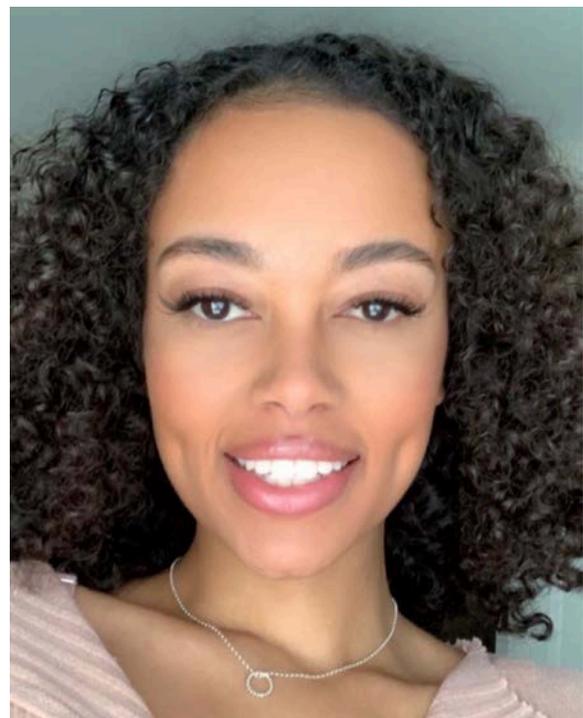
of their creativity in personal projects off campus.

Thank you for taking the time to read my campaign and I hope I can secure your vote for me in 2026.

Simeon Sanford Blades

## Candidate for Squamish Campus Representative

Havaila Clarke



### Biography

Hi! My name is Havaila, and I'm a third-year Bachelor of Communication student at Capilano University. I grew up in Squamish and recently returned, drawn by the slower pace, natural beauty, and strong sense of community it offers. Coming back has deepened my appreciation for both the town and the Squamish campus, and I feel genuinely lucky to be part of our small but mighty CapU Squamish family. Being part of a

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close-knit campus has made my student experience feel more personal and connected, and it's something I truly value.

Alongside my studies, I stay actively involved in the Squamish community through volunteer work with local non-profit initiatives, including serving on a grant dispersal committee that supports organizations doing meaningful work in the area. This experience has given me a better understanding of local needs and the importance of thoughtful, fair decision-making.

I've also spent time involved with advocacy groups supporting people of colour. As Squamish continues to grow and diversify, inclusion, representation, and creating welcoming spaces are values that matter deeply to me, both on campus and beyond.

Outside of school, I love meeting new people, spending time with my family and friends, exploring the outdoors, and making memories through fun adventures. I'm motivated by a desire to stay connected, give back, and remain involved in the place that has helped shape who I am, both as a student and as a member of the Squamish community.

## Campaign Platform

As the CSU Squamish Representative, my focus would be on advocacy, connection, and building a stronger, more engaging campus experience for all students. I believe that every student at each CapU location deserves to feel heard, supported, and included in decisions that affect their academic and campus life. One of my top priorities is improving communication between Squamish students and CSU leadership. I want to make sure everyone feels comfortable sharing their ideas, concerns, and feedback, and confident that those perspectives are truly being represented. For me, this means actively listening, asking thoughtful questions, and following through on issues so students know

their voices are being valued and their input is making a difference.

I'm also passionate about bringing more energy and connection to the Squamish campus. Even though we're a smaller student community, there is so much potential to create meaningful opportunities for students to engage, collaborate, and enjoy campus life together. I would love to help support everything from casual social events to student-led projects and group activities. I believe that creating spaces where students feel connected not only improves the day-to-day campus experience but also strengthens the overall community in Squamish.

I'm committed to advocating for a campus where students from all backgrounds feel welcome, respected, and valued, not just in policy, but in the everyday culture of campus life. This means ensuring that the voices of students of colour, international students, and those from underrepresented groups are heard and actively considered.

At the end of the day, my goal as CSU Squamish Representative is simple: to listen, advocate, and help create a campus experience that students feel proud to be part of. I want to ensure that students feel connected not only to each other but also to the leadership that represents them. I see this role as an opportunity to give back to the campus that has shaped my own student experience, and to contribute to building a Squamish campus that is vibrant, inclusive, and supportive for every student.

# Candidate Info



## Candidates for At-Large Representatives

### Priyanshu



#### Biography

I am a second-year Associate of Science student in my final semester at Capilano University, with strong interests in science, research, and applied problem-solving. My coursework includes statistics, calculus, physics, environmental studies, and Geographic Information Systems. I enjoy combining analytical thinking with real-world applications, particularly in areas related to spatial analysis and scientific research.

One of my proudest achievements is working closely with a professor from the Geography department as a Geospatial Research Assistant. In this role, I contribute to research, develop GIS-based maps and visual materials, and assist in preparing academic content. I am also a

co-author on an upcoming academic book project, where I help translate complex scientific and geographic concepts into clear, publication-quality visuals. This experience has strengthened my research skills, professionalism, and attention to detail.

Beyond academics, I have been actively involved in student governance and campus initiatives. I previously served on the CSU Student Engagement Committee, contributing to discussions aimed at improving student involvement and programming. Currently, I volunteer on the Educational Technology and Learning Environments Committee, where I provide student perspectives on digital learning tools and overall academic experience. I am also volunteering in the student fee campaign to raise awareness about tuition and fee changes, because I believe students deserve transparency and accountability regarding financial decisions that impact them.

I am committed to thoughtful leadership, informed decision-making, and strong, independent student representation and I aim to contribute positively to the Capilano student body.

#### Campaign Platform

If elected as an At-Large Representative, my primary goal will be to strengthen communication, transparency, and meaningful student engagement across all faculties and campuses.

As a student in my final semester, I understand how easy it is to feel disconnected from decision-making spaces. Many students attend classes, work part-time, manage financial pressure, and leave campus without fully knowing what the CSU does for them. I believe student representation should feel visible, approachable, and responsive, not distant.

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Many students are unaware of the full range of services the CSU provides, including advocacy, health and dental benefits. I want to help bridge that gap. Clear communication builds trust, and trust builds engagement. Students deserve to know how their fees are being used and how decisions are made.

First, I will prioritize student feedback and accessibility. As an At-Large Representative, my responsibility is to keep the board informed about the real concerns students experience daily. I plan to gather input through conversations, outreach, and structured feedback opportunities. Whether the issue is academic stress, affordability, campus space, or student life, students should feel that their voices matter and are being brought directly to the board.

Second, I want to support practical and inclusive engagement. Many students commute, work, or feel unsure about getting involved. I understand that not everyone has the same time, energy, or confidence to participate. I will advocate for programming and engagement efforts that reflect the realities of students' lives and make participation more accessible.

Third, I believe in informed and responsible decision-making. My academic background has taught me the importance of analysis, preparation, and evidence-based thinking. Board decisions affect thousands of students, and those decisions should be thoughtful, well-researched, and transparent.

Finally, I bring commitment and accountability. Serving on the board is not symbolic; it requires consistency, preparation, and responsibility. I am prepared to show up, stay engaged, and represent students with integrity.

My campaign is not about big promises. It is about steady effort, honest communication, and real representation. I want students to feel that

someone is listening, someone is prepared, and someone is genuinely working in their interest.

If elected, I will work to ensure that every student feels seen, respected, and represented within the Capilano Students' Union.

## Arshpreet Singh



### Biography

My name is Arshpreet Singh, and I am currently serving as an At-Large Representative at Capilano University. It has been an honor to represent students and advocate for their concerns, and I am running again to continue building on the work we have started.

As a dedicated student balancing academics with professional experience as an autoglass technician, I understand the realities many students face—managing coursework, financial responsibilities, and personal growth at the same time. My work requires precision, accountability, and strong problem-solving skills, qualities that I bring into my leadership role.

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When people rely on you to do a job properly, there is no room for shortcuts. I apply that same level of responsibility to representing students.

During my time as an At-Large Representative, I have focused on listening to student concerns, participating actively in discussions, and ensuring diverse voices are heard. I believe leadership is rooted in consistency, integrity, and action—not just titles.

Living away from my family has also shaped my perspective. It has strengthened my independence and resilience, and it has deepened my understanding of how important community and support are for students navigating university life.

I am committed to continuing to advocate for transparency, inclusivity, and meaningful student engagement. My goal is to serve with accountability, approachability, and a solutions-focused mindset, ensuring that every student feels represented and valued.

## Campaign Platform

As your current At-Large Representative, I am running again to continue the work of strengthening student voice, improving transparency, and building a campus environment where every student feels heard and supported. Over the past term, I have gained valuable experience in understanding how decisions are made and how student concerns can be effectively brought forward. My goal is to build on that experience with clearer action, stronger communication, and measurable progress.

### 1. Stronger Student Voice & Representation

An At-Large Representative serves all students, regardless of program or background. I will continue to actively listen to concerns and ensure they are brought forward in meetings and discussions. I plan to create more accessible ways for students to share feedback, whether through open forums, online forms, or informal

engagement on campus. Representation should not feel distant—it should feel reachable.

### 2. Transparency & Communication

Many students are unaware of what their student representatives are working on. I aim to improve communication by providing clearer updates about ongoing initiatives, decisions, and outcomes. Students deserve to know how their fees are being used and what progress is being made on their behalf. I will advocate for more regular and digestible communication from the student leadership team.

### 3. Academic & Student Support Advocacy

Balancing academics, work, and personal responsibilities can be overwhelming. I will continue advocating for accessible academic resources, mental health support, and student services that reflect the real pressures students face. Support systems should be practical, visible, and easy to access.

### 4. Inclusivity & Community Building

As someone living away from family and balancing work and school, I understand how important belonging is. I will support initiatives that encourage community engagement, cultural inclusion, and opportunities for students to connect beyond the classroom. A stronger campus culture improves both academic success and student well-being.

### 5. Accountability & Action-Oriented Leadership

Experience has taught me that leadership is not about promises—it is about follow-through. I am committed to attending meetings prepared, asking critical questions, and ensuring student priorities remain central in decision-making. I will continue to represent students with integrity, professionalism, and a solutions-focused mindset.

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Re-electing me means choosing continuity, experience, and a representative who understands both the student perspective and the governance process. I am committed to serving responsibly, listening actively, and working consistently to improve the student experience for everyone.

## Karanveer Singh Brar

[No headshot provided.]

### Biography

I am currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts program majoring in Psychology at Capilano University, where I am developing a strong understanding of human behavior, communication, and critical thinking. Studying psychology has helped me become a better listener and understand the importance of empathy, respect, and considering different perspectives. These skills are important not only in academics but also in leadership and representation. During high school, I served as the captain of my football team, where I was responsible for leading practices, motivating teammates, and setting a positive example both on and off the field. I also had the opportunity to captain teams in multiple tournaments across Canada, which strengthened my confidence, teamwork, and ability to perform under pressure. Being a team captain taught me accountability, discipline, and how to unite people toward a common goal. Through both my academic journey and athletic leadership experience, I have developed strong communication skills, responsibility, and a hardworking mindset. I am approachable, reliable, and committed to representing students fairly and ensuring their voices are heard and respected within the Capilano Students Union.

### Campaign Platform

I am running for the position of At-Large Representative because I want to ensure that all

students, across every faculty and campus, feel heard and represented. The role of an At-Large Representative is to bring forward the diverse perspectives, concerns, and ideas of the entire student body, and I am committed to taking that responsibility seriously. Every student's experience is different, and I believe those differences should be reflected in board discussions and decisions.

If elected, I will attend all bi-weekly board meetings fully prepared and ready to actively participate in discussions and decision-making. I understand that board decisions affect students in many ways, including services, events, policies, and overall campus life. I will carefully consider each decision and always prioritize what is best for students as a whole. I will also be an active member of the committee, contributing consistently and responsibly to the work that supports the organization's goals.

As an At-Large Representative, my main focus will be listening. I plan to regularly connect with students from different programs, year levels, and backgrounds to understand their concerns and suggestions. Whether through informal conversations, classroom visits, social media engagement, or simple surveys, I will create opportunities for students to share their voices. I want to be approachable and accessible so students feel comfortable bringing forward their ideas or concerns. I will take responsibility for keeping the board informed about student perspectives by clearly communicating the feedback I gather. Representation means not only listening but also speaking up and ensuring those concerns are discussed at the board level. I will advocate respectfully and confidently to make sure student voices are considered in every decision. Transparency and accountability are also very important to me. I will provide regular updates to students about what is being discussed at board meetings and any important decisions being made. Students deserve to know how their representatives are acting on

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their behalf. In addition to board responsibilities, I am committed to assisting with CSU activities and campaigns when needed. Being an effective representative means being involved, supportive, and willing to contribute beyond meetings. Overall, my goal is to be a reliable, approachable, and dedicated voice for all students, ensuring that their perspectives are heard, respected, and acted upon.

## Parbjot Singh



### Biography

I am a motivated and community-oriented student leader with a strong commitment to service, advocacy, and positive change. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Computational Science, which has strengthened my analytical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and attention to detail—skills that are essential for effective student governance and responsible decision-making.

A significant part of my leadership journey comes from community service. I have

volunteered with Sarbat Da Bhala in India, where I worked alongside friends to support elderly individuals, underprivileged families, and orphans. Through organizing outreach efforts and distributing food, essential supplies, and emotional support, I developed a strong sense of empathy, teamwork, and responsibility. This experience shaped my belief that leadership should always be rooted in service and care for others.

On campus, I have been actively involved in student advocacy at Capilano University, particularly around concerns related to increasing tuition fees. Through this volunteer work, I engaged with students, helped raise awareness about affordability challenges, and supported discussions focused on accessibility and fairness in higher education. This involvement strengthened my understanding of student representation and the importance of ensuring that student voices are reflected in decision-making.

I have also worked actively with Coast Mental Health, supporting initiatives that promote mental health awareness and community well-being. This experience reinforced my commitment to advocating for accessible mental health resources and supportive services for students.

Through my academic background, volunteer work, and advocacy experience, I have developed strong communication, leadership, and time-management skills. As a candidate in the Capilano Students' Union election, I am committed to representing students with integrity, empathy, and accountability. I believe in listening to students, advocating for their needs, and working collaboratively to build a more inclusive and supportive campus community.

### Campaign Platform

I am running for the position of At-Large Representative on the Capilano Students' Union

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to represent students from all faculties and campuses at Capilano University. As an At-Large Representative, my responsibility is to bring forward student concerns, listen to diverse perspectives, and ensure that decisions made by the board reflect the needs of the entire student body. Because one At-Large position is currently vacant, I am prepared to start early if elected. Starting early would allow me to immediately contribute to board discussions, committee work, and student advocacy without delay.

**Priority 1: Listening to Students and Sharing Their Concerns** Many students feel unsure about how to share their concerns or feel disconnected from student governance. One of my main priorities is to listen to students and make sure their voices are heard at the board level. I will engage with students, bring their concerns to board meetings, and ensure that student perspectives are considered when decisions are made. Clear communication and honest representation are essential for a strong student union.

**Priority 2: Affordability and Tuition Concerns** Rising tuition fees and the cost of living continue to impact students' ability to succeed. Having been involved in advocacy related to tuition increases, I understand how financial pressure affects students. As an At-Large Representative, I will advocate for fairness, transparency, and student-focused decision-making when financial matters are discussed. Students deserve to be informed and considered in decisions that affect their education costs.

**Priority 3: Mental Health and Student Well-Being** Student well-being is just as important as academic success. I will support initiatives that promote mental health awareness and access to supportive services. I believe the CSU should continue to prioritize student well-being and create a campus environment where students feel supported, respected, and included.

**Priority 4: Responsible and Active Board Participation** If elected, I am committed to attending bi-weekly board meetings, actively participating in at least one committee, and fulfilling all duties of the role. I will review policies, ask questions, and make decisions responsibly, always keeping students' best interests in mind. Student society fees should be used carefully and in ways that benefit students directly.

**Priority 5: Working Together and Supporting CSU Initiatives** I will work respectfully with other board members, CSU staff, and university administration. I am willing to assist with CSU activities and campaigns and act as an ambassador for the CSU to the wider student body. Collaboration and mutual respect are key to effective student leadership.