

GM #1 – 27 Jan 2023

Environment Student Society Meeting Minutes

Land Acknowledgement

The Environment Students' Society acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the Office of Indigenous Relations.

Agenda

1. About Us
2. Program Societies
3. ESS Office + Lounge
4. Coffeeshop
5. Winter Term Events
6. Questions
7. Open Discussion

What is ESS?

The Environment Student Society represents all 1300+ students in the Faculty of Environment. We advocate student interests to the faculty, organize social events, support the program societies, and overall aim to serve the Environment student body as best we can.

Every term we usually collect \$12.50 from students as part of their ESS fees. This contribution allows us to provide students with a variety of services, allows us to host events, and run the ES coffeeshop.

Council (see our [Constitution](#) for full description of our roles)

Name	Position	Year	Contact
PRESIDENTS & VICE-PRESIDENTS			
Tracy Tang (she/her)	President	4A Planning	President.ess@uwaterloo.ca
Karen Chen (she/her)	VP-Finance	4A ENBUS	Vpfinance.ess@uwaterloo.ca
Harry Cheung (he/him)	VP-Education	3A Geomatics	Vpeducation.ess@uwaterloo.ca
Ashvinya Thatchinamoorthy (she/her)	VP-Operations	4A Planning	Vpoperations.ess@uwaterloo.ca
Mustapha Zaidi (he/him)	VP-Internal	4B Knowledge Integration	Vpinternal.ess@uwaterloo.ca
DIRECTORS			
Julia Lau (she/her)	Social	4A Planning	social.ess@uwaterloo.ca
Parthvi Patel (she/her)	Communications	4A Planning	communications.ess@uwaterloo.ca
Diya Matroja (she/her)	Web	4A Planning	web.ess@uwaterloo.ca
Katie Traynor (she/her)	Environment	2B Planning	environment.ess@uwaterloo.ca
Matthew Van Bakel (he/him)	Mental Health & Wellness	4A Planning	mentalhealth.ess@uwaterloo.ca

Isaac John Ocampo (any/all)	First Year Representative	1B Planning	firstyearrep.ess@uwaterloo.ca
COMMITTEES			
Nick Yeung (he/him)	Finance	1B Planning	
Eden Keller (she/they)	Finance	1B ENBUS	
Mila Jokovic (she/her)	Communications	4A ENBUS	
Rebecca Choonilall (she/her)	Communications	4A ENBUS	
Ayah Medlej (she/her)	Social	3B Geography & Aviation	
Neel Amin (he/him)	Social	1B Planning	

SECRETARY CANDIDATES:

Timurul Hoque Kazi (he/him) 2B Planning

Amir Heydari (he/him) 4B Geography & Aviation

[comment] as of 01 Feb 2023, Timurul Hoque Kazi has been elected secretary. Accessible at secretary.ess@uwaterloo.ca

Program Societies

[UW Aviation Society \(UWAS\)](#)

@uw_aviation

- Professional development day coming up, for aviation students to network with industry
- Resume planning & mock interviews in the works for February (stay tuned!)
- Tubing Day! Tickets limited
 - *Chicopee Tube Park Saturday, Feb. 4th from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM*

[Knowledge Integration Student Society \(KISS\)](#)

@uw_kiss

- Keep an eye out for events
- KIX Museum presented in March, many brilliant exhibits of student work

[Student Association for International Development \(SAID\)](#)

@indev_waterloo

- Networking Session
 - *Friday, March 31st*
- 20 people showed up to previous event, good turnout!
- Prof Heart-to-Heart (Meet & Greet)
 - *Around Valentine's Day*

[Waterloo Environment & Business Students \(WEBS\)](#)

@waterlooenbus

- Bowling Night
 - *Late February*
- Pizza & Trivia Night
 - *Early March*
- Merch Options

- February

Environment and Sustainability Student Association (ERSSA)

@uwerssa

- Meetings
 - *ESS Lounge | Wednesdays at 5:30 PM*
- School of Environment, Resources, and Sustainability (SERS) Town Hall
 - *EV3 1408 | Thursday, Feb. 16th from 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM*
- Merch Pick-up
 - *ESS Lounge | every Friday until the end of February from 12 PM – 5 PM*
- Love Rock – Rock Climbing Event
 - *PAC – UWaterloo Rock Climbing Wall | Tuesday, Feb. 14th from 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM*

Waterloo Association of Geography Students (WAGS)

@envwags

- WAGS / PSA Hockey Night
 - *Kitchener Memorial Auditorium | Friday, Feb. 3rd at 7:30 PM*
 - Tickets sold as of Saturday, Jan. 28th
- Meet the Fizzam
 - *Grad House | Thursday Feb. 9th from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM*

Planning Students' Association (PSA)

@uwaterloopsa

- WAGS / PSA Hockey Night
 - *Kitchener Memorial Auditorium | Friday, Feb. 3rd at 7:30 PM*
 - Tickets sold as of Saturday, Jan. 28th
- Resumé Critique and candygrams coming up in February
- Alumni Talk and Conference in March

Sustainability & Financial Management Student Organization (SFMSO)

@uwsfmso

- Working on integration into ESS!
- Merch Design Contest
 - *Friday, Feb. 10th at 11:59 PM*

ESS Office, Lounge, & Services

OFFICE

- Many services available at the ESS Office, basement of EV1
- Office hours from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Locker Rentals with \$20 deposit
- Poster approvals (see policies on [linktree](#))

LOUNGE

- Speak with office to book lounge
 - (15 people max, 2 weeks in advance)
 - Completely free! (Catering at additional cost)
 - Request form available soon

- Lounge Hours are 24/7

ESS Coffeeshop

- Open 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM every weekday!
- Baked goods, \$1 coffee,
- 26 volunteers and counting
- Fastest the coffeeshop has ever opened!
- Possible special events – Pretzel Tuesdays, Waffle Wednesday, Smoothie Thursday
- Planning to reintroduce Loyalty Cards
- Catering services available!
 - Form will be on linktree, but email vpopperations.ess@uwaterloo.ca

ESS Winter Events

- ENV's Got Talent (led by first years!)
 - *Across EV3/EV1 | Feb. 10th from 6:00 PM*
- Mental Health and Wellness Week
 - *First week of March*
- Nacho Crawl
 - *Around March 17th*
- Grad Ball
 - Open to graduates first, then everyone else
- Semi-Formal Dance
 - More information soon – we would love your ideas!

Student Input Form

- If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, fill out our input form: <https://forms.gle/HDY1dLDkrLHCpEAV7>
- Event ideas?
- What do you want to see from ESS?
- Should the ESS fees be mandatory?
- Who do you think we should collaborate with?

Questions & Comments

- **Where to find ESS updates and information?**
 - These meeting minutes!
 - @uw_ess on Instagram
 - <https://uwaterloo.ca/environment-students-society/>
 - We are working on more routes of access
- **Why is most of ESS made of Planning Students?**
 - Positions have been open, advertised, and fairly elected
 - Planning does not have an extreme advantage; ENBUS and WAGS are comparable size
 - We encourage all students to apply!
 - Positions for the next year are up for election after reading week
 - [comment] with 1300+ students, unopposed elections aren't a matter of lethargy – it's a matter of engagement. The onus is on ESS to promote and get the word out more!

- [comment] we should keep better track of turnout and metrics.
- **How can we improve communication?**
 - We do use the environment undergraduate mailing list
 - Instagram, posters, website
 - [comment] consider making graphics / marketing-optimize emails to work better
- **Why do we need ESS approval for posters?**
 - We have been delegated responsibility by the faculty to manage and take down posters
 - “We are not the be all end all” – we just have the forms
- **What is allowed during the bookings?**
 - All kinds of social and academic events
 - No, alcohol is not allowed (or on campus in general, unless approved by WUSA)
- **What are program budgets currently?**
 - WUSA needs enrollment numbers – confirmed budget finalized after reading week
 - VP-Finance has sent operational estimates to program societies
- **Should the ESS Fees be mandatory?**
 - Made optional due to absence of services during COVID
 - Approximately 115 of 1355 students opted out – 8.5%
 - Fees support the coffeeshop and events
 - Coffeeshop is dependent on new source of funding; it has never broken even
 - Many students will say no without considering
 - [comment] Marketing campaign – educate students on where funds are going
 - Infographic report in progress!
 - [comment] be wary of knee-jerk reaction – raising the option is advertising the ability to opt-out; hence the need for education
 - *Model Scenarios:*
 - Optional but increase fee → covers costs, but knee jerk reaction may mean percentage of opt-outs increases
 - Mandatory & maintain/increase → possible negative reaction
 - Optional & maintain → status quo
 - Mandatory & Decrease → may not cover costs? Run numbers.
 - [comment] quantify scenarios
 - [comment] analogous to transit – increase fees → less ridership
also indirect impacts, e.g., reduction in ridership increases congestion elsewhere
 - [comment] ensure transparency with calculations
 - [comment] other faculties have \$20 fees – ours are \$12.50
 - Not financially sustainable but we supplemented using WESEF
 - Preferred lower fee with lower service than other faculties
 - [comment] first-years likely don’t know about fees period
- **Clarification: is ESS in control of the opt-out decision?**
 - The decision is made by ESS, ratified by WUSA
 - ESS Council has decided to open the dialogue with the student body rather than unilaterally deciding
 - WUSA needs a decision by late February
 - Most other societies have made them mandatory by WUSA recommendation

- **What would Coffeeshop use extra money for?**
 - Context: doesn't even break even
 - Coffeeshop won't shut down – but event funding will be transferred to cover costs
 - Cover repairs for broken machinery
 - Buy a new sustainable fridge
- **[comment] [Sustainability Action Fund](#) applications open**
 - \$2,000 - \$30,000 towards supporting any kind of sustainable project
 - Due Wednesday, February 15th, at 5:00pm
- **[comment] make summaries of meetings/important events/digest for Instagram/newsletter/emails/physical posters**
 - We are not able to track viewing metrics for privacy reasons
- **Should we have more events?**
 - No need to add more events, just communicate existing ones better
 - More icebreaking events to meet new people
- **Social Event Communication**
 - Be better marketing (as suggested two points above)
 - Use Program Societies & their events to trickle-down market
 - [comment] we should get information to students in advance
 - (e.g., monthly newsletter/infographic of events)
 - Every tool; QR codes, posters, etc.
 - Accessibility matters, and knowledge is the first step
- **Should program societies focus more on professional events, while ESS runs socials?**
 - PSA has many socials at the expense of more professional events
 - Program societies should focus on co-ops, interviews, alumni talks, faculty meets, etc.
 - Should show education > socialization
 - Difficult to do because of long lead-time on Professors, Professionals
- **What role can professors play?**
 - One professor used to talk about every event and conference
 - Each society should reach out to their profs to market society and ESS events
- **[comment] ESS members are unpaid volunteers; we have limited time as well, but we will do our best to listen and act on the feedback we receive.**