

PLATFORM STATEMENTS

A) Prabhatha Meduri- President

Hello,

I am Prabhatha Meduri, third year student of BA psychology. Here is my platform statement and the ideas of mine I am planning to execute after I become the President of Student union.

1. Advocate for Part-time job connections and free job-related trainings (first-aid & CPR)

My first priority focuses on employment as a two-step program. The university is already covering some areas of student employment, however I believe the Student Union can cover some of the areas that the university lacks, such as part-time employment for students and training programs. For example, CPR training costs around 135 dollars out of student's pockets. If we can get it to campus and be the connection between students and essential training, that means we are propelling students forward. The first step of the program would be lobbying with the university and outside organizations to bring training for students to be able to succeed when applying for jobs. With basic training of First Aid and CPR, Mental Health First Aid and Applied Suicide Prevention Training, students would be a step ahead of the competition without having to spend money out of their pockets. The second step of the program would be working together with the Marketing & Communications Manager to create a webpage on the SU website so that students would be able to look for part-time jobs directly through us. We want to be able to create meaningful connections with community employers to be able to showcase their positions available on our website.

2. Advocate for Peer-to-Peer support club

My second priority is related to mental health as a peer-to-peer support club. It will be solely a student-to-student initiative in which students will be able to share some of their similar interests and have someone to talk to when they feel lonely. The pandemic has made us all feel isolated from each other which has hindered our mental health. With this initiative I want to bring the sense of community back to campus. This group would meet twice a week and talk it out. With the information or opinions, I have received from students I understood that most of us are feeling isolated mentally and that we are not truly enjoying university life. Along with this initiative I am also going to work with VPSL and the mental health coordinator to organize several events, parties, and safe spaces for students to talk to and hangout with their peers.

3. Advocate for Free clothing donation program

During my consultations with different groups of students around campus, I have observed that many students feel insecure regarding clothing – especially winter clothing.

The price of clothes at thrift stores and regular stores have been steadily rising day by day. My idea is that we create a free clothing donation program, in which students would be able to donate clothes they don't wear as often and get other clothing items from their peers for free. I will establish a donation center on campus where students would be able to donate clothes they don't wear anymore. This program will be advertised in conjunction with the Marketing & Communications Manager so that we are able to spread the word around campus. That way, students will be able to spend less on clothing and still help their peers.

4. **Advocate for Truth & Reconciliation**

As we continue to recognize that the University of Prince Edward Island is seated on the land of the Mi'kma'ki nation, I stand to further assist in the decolonization and Indigenization of the Union. Decolonization and Indigenization would take the form of working with the Mawi'omi Center, the UPEISU Marketing & Communications Manager and the Indigenous students and professors to promote indigenous knowledge across campus. I will also strive to advocate, along with the VPAX, for a better and more inclusive budget for the center as it continues to support indigenous students through their years at UPEI.

B) Akshay Bakshar- President

I am excited to announce that I am running for the position of President for the UPEI Student Union in the 2022-2023 academic year. With your love and support, we can make this happen. I am an international student at UPEI enrolled in Environmental Studies. Years back, I too was a newcomer to UPEI and faced certain challenges but with time I conquered them. We all are a part of one big family and need to stay united by all means so that we can support and encourage each other in their accomplishments. With this in mind, to help every student achieve what they want I am running for president this election. I have gained valuable knowledge and experience of Student Union as the Board of Governor for a year and with my corporate skills, I am very passionate to support my fellow students.

If elected as President, with all my skills and passion, I will serve you all the best way I can. Problems are the lock you have, and I am the key to unlock your lock. My agendas for this election are "Education & Awareness" - Increasing advocacy for student issues, making student know how system at Student Council works, keeping transparency between system and student issues, keeping students up to date with all available services and programs. Second agenda is "Residence issue" - here I will work with private rentals, in campus & off campus accommodations and try to get affordable living for every student. Last agenda - "Problem-Solving Sessions" - Here every student will get the chance to come up-to me in office or online on zoom and share their problem and I will get the problem solved right away or connect them to the next lead if needed. This will be just the beginning, I have planned much more for the holistic development of the students.

C) David Reyes- Vice President Academic and External

To all my fellow students, it is with great pleasure that I am announcing my candidacy for the position of Vice President of Academics and External, or VPAX, for the UPEI Student Union for this upcoming academic year.

My name is David Reyes, I am a third-year student here at UPEI, I'm also doing a major in Applied Communications Leadership and Culture (ACLC) with a minor in Psychology and Political Science. I arrived on the island on 2019, I was born and raised in Guayaquil, Ecuador and ever since I arrived on the island I've been as involved as I can with the Student Union when possible. What I aim to accomplish when elected is to advocate for all those students who need someone that stands with them, as a fellow student I want nothing more than to help others as I would like to be helped, I want to and will be that person other students look up to when in need. I'm a student and I will work with and for my fellow

students.

I want to improve the tools at our disposal and assist our students within and outside the university, whether it's in housing or transportation, once elected I will do my absolute best to find solutions for the problems that exist or may come, even improve some of the tools or services that we already provide for them to be more accessible, useful, and friendly for all our students.

My goals:

- **Model United Nations for UPEI.**
- **Tool Co-Op review, improvement, and promotion.**
- **Housing crises review with island government.**
- **Fund raisers for charities on the island.**

D) Fernando Torres- Vice President Student Life

Dear Students, I am delighted to announce my candidacy for the position of Vice-president of Student Life for the 2021-2022 academic year.

I am third-year Economics & Finance international student from Peru. I am passionate about student life and my mission is to develop and implement ideas that promote a harmonious and fun university life. Due to the pandemic, in the last couple of years, students have been alienated from the complete university experience and as we return to normal life it is time to bring the fun back to school. Academia is important, but university goes beyond that! Extracurricular activities such as sports, musical, social, and cultural events create an endearing environment in which we can relax and ease the stress of school. As your VP of Student Life, I would advocate so that every member of our community has a voice and a safe space to enjoy and create one in a lifetime student experiences.

I had the opportunity to be my high school representative and I participated in various international committees. Along with this I was Vice president of the Latin American Student Society which allowed me to get more involved with the student union activities. During my first two years I had the chance to live in all three university residences, this gave me a different perspective about university life, and I consider that this is very important since I can understand and feel identified with all the students that are going through something similar. But most importantly I love to help students to have a better and more fun time in university, and with this position is possible.

Main Proposals are the following:

- Providing the student body with an online platform where all their suggestions can be submitted and having more participation of the student body when it comes to events.

- Increase the representation of the different communities and groups that form part of our university through further promoting events, clubs and societies.
- In addition to this, bringing back, improving, adding and promoting events that could not be done because of the pandemic (beach-blast, Halloween pub, Global Village, etc.).

Sincerely,

Fernando Torres

Instagram: @fernando_torrees

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E) Adam MacKenzie- President

If I were to be elected, I would spend my time tackling significant issues that are persistent on campus today.

Firstly, mental health. Mental health is poor among many people worldwide, especially students. In terms of advocacy, I would ensure mental health is at the forefront of all lobby discussions with all levels of government. Currently, the UPEISU uses Aspira to provide mental health resources to students. In the past couple of years, it has been proven that Aspira is not sufficient to adequately meet the needs of UPEI students. If elected, I would terminate the Student Union's contract with Aspira and provide students with a more effective service. To further deepen the resources on campus, I would work closely with the UPEI administration to hire a BIPOC Counsellor, which we don't currently have yet and is much needed.

Secondly, I want to create a more affordable housing environment at UPEI. Along with mental health, housing would be at the forefront of all lobby meetings to force the government's hand in keeping its promise of making housing more affordable for students.

Thirdly, I want to improve the services and supports offered to international students. The current population of international students that make up the total student body is approximately 30%, and this number is ever-growing. I believe that the UPEI Student Union should make the necessary changes to better reflect the needs of these students. If elected, I would work closely with the International Student Office and BIPOC-UHSR to combine budgets and resources to host more effective services and events. I would also work to bring in the Atlantic Student Development Alliance on a contract with the SU to provide international students with their services free of charge.

Next, I want to restore the Student Union's credibility through rebuilding relationships with stakeholders, the university, and most importantly, students. I would revise the current office structure at the UPEISU, including creating more student jobs within the Union to ensure that the SU is working as effectively as possible.

Finally, if elected, other focus areas include advocating to the administration to adjust parking and athletic fees to better suit the needs of students, lobbying the government to increase funding to the Mawi'omi Center, and more advocacy at all levels of the government to ensure that UPEI students are better heard.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at UPEI since I began in Fall of 2020. I want to lead the UPEI Student Union as President & CEO in the 2022-23 Academic Year to achieve all of these goals, and ultimately make sure students' needs are being met.

Cheers,
Adam MacKenzie

F) Anthonia Bebiem- Vice President Student Life

Hi panthers, my name is ANTHONIA BEBIEM, and I am running to be your next VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE. I am a Computer Science international student from Nigeria. I am incredibly fortunate to have experienced campus life as a student over the last couple of years. Over the years, I have gained valuable experience that will help me serve you as the next Vice president of Student Life. A lot has changed in our community but with change comes opportunity (James Welch). A chance to give a new meaning to student life on campus. As Vice President of Student Life, I hope to create experiences and opportunities to improve student learning and personal development. I will also make it my mission to provide resources that will enhance our students' lives, strengthen their ties to the panther community, and help them prepare for life beyond graduation. My goal is to create a more inclusive and fun-filled space where no one gets left behind. I will strive to meet the needs and plan appropriate events for all UPEI students, regardless of their individual identities, experiences, or requirements. As Vice President of Student Life, it will be my duty to facilitate all UPEISU concerts, events, and activities. Act as liaison to all sub-organization on campus., liaise with Bar Manager on relevant pub activities, supervise the clubs & events coordinator and take responsibility for advocacy efforts on campus on non-academic issues. In addition to fulfilling all these tasks, if elected, these are some areas that I will also prioritize:

Events

Hybrid Events

Since returning on campus, there is a need to have events that will help foster engagement within students. I will work with the appropriate bodies to plan social events on campus and/or online. These events will be set to the various interest of students, occur frequently and be open to all ages.

Student Market

The panther community is filled with multitalented students that run small businesses while attending part-time/full-time classes. I will host a student

market event where all student businesses will display their merchandise of any category and get support from their fellow student and faculty members.

🏠 Clubs and society

🏠 Club & societies List

I will work with the club & events coordinator to revise and update the list of all clubs and societies on the UPEISU website for all existing and incoming students.

🏠 Clubs Cup

If elected as the Vice President Student Life, I will help bring more awareness to the club's cups and organize more competitive games between clubs and societies on campus.

🏠 Club Continuity

If elected, I plan to work with the executives of all clubs and societies on campus in the office position to create a continuity agenda for the clubs. This way, no club ends with a graduating set.

🏠 Wellness

🏠 Mental health support

As Vice President Student Life, collaboration is essential to my work. To best serve students, I will collaborate with the Vice president of finance & Administration to promote all available mental health resources and assist their office in supporting their advocacy ideas.

Thank you so much for your time, and I hope I can count on your support.

Vote Anthonia Bebiem for Vice President Student Life

Voting on March 8th and 9th via myUPEI

Email: aobebiem@upei.ca

Instagram: [@ofurebebiem](https://www.instagram.com/ofurebebiem)

G) Iyobosa Igbineweka - Vice President Academic and External

Hello! My name is Iyobosa Nathan Igbineweka, and I am running to be your next Vice President Academic and External. I am a second year Biology student, and I am deeply interested in enriching student experience. This past year I have been serving on the UPEISU Council as one of the Science Representatives. I have used my position to work closely with student union and groups to support student leaders and organizers in the Science department. Through my role, I have developed an understanding of the issues and concerns students face, especially as they try to further student engagement and improve the student experience. My experience on the Council and understanding of the advocacy network student union work with makes me a qualified and reliable candidate for this role. If

I am elected to this position, I intend to prioritize the following:

Advocacy

- Advocate for more grants for students
- Advocate for fairness for international students
- Advocate for Open Education Resources – As tuition continues to rise, there is a huge financial burden being put on students. I believe that advocating for the adoption of Open Education Resources is a novel way to combat it

Support

- Provide flexible hours to assist students with any academic related issues
- Use of UPEISU Instagram to conduct surveys, collect feedback and address concerns brought directly by students
- Have workshops aimed at tackling stress and working on time management

International Student Support and Tuition Regulation

- Lobby the government to regulate tuition fees for international students
- Increase the awareness around the challenges faced by international students
- Advocate for a better family plan for our graduate students who have dependents

National Housing Strategy

- Lobby for consideration for student need in the National Housing Strategy
- Work with municipal, provincial and federal levels of government to develop solutions that improve the living conditions of students and provide proactive proposals to meet the growing demand

Thank you for taking the time to read my platform. If these priorities resonate with you, please be sure to vote Iyobosa Nathan Igbneweka for Vice President Academic & External.