

Candidate Statement

Name: Jaleen Mackay

Position: Vice-President Internal (VPI)

Program: Bachelor of Science in Biology, Pre-Medicine Concentration



Hi: I'm Jay and I'm running for VPI. I humbly ask for your vote in the upcoming election — please allow me explain why I'd be a good fit.

For the past 3 years, I've served as an executive of eSports Valley, UFV's computer gaming club. In that time, I've managed social media profiles, organized teams and planned multiple large events. That leadership experience led me to starting a club of my own — UFV Advocacy for Men and Boys. On top of that, I've volunteered for SUS on many occasions, which led to more opportunities, more connections, and more involvement in campus politics. Experience as a volunteer granted me knowledge of how SUS functions; experience as a student has given me ideas on how it *should* function.

Internal portfolio

VPI handles finances, board meetings, and policy among others. As an executive, I will work to create an environment that supports other executives and students so that they can function to the best of their capacity.

Simple policies

Revising our policies and bylaws is a keystone internal responsibility. Updating sections and removing obsolete points is a necessary ongoing task.

Better budgeting

SUS manages many vital initiatives, from health and dental to the campus connector. Examining and allocating funds also requires regular upkeep.

Efficient operations

Clubs and associations should have easy access to their resources. Whether it's funding, paperwork, or volunteers, communication with SUS should help smooth the process from start to finish.

Smart spaces

UFV provides many services to students that are underutilized due to lack of promotion. Furthermore, the Student Union Building has deadspace that could be used for a variety of purposes: the food bank and health clinic alone merit discussion. We need to be conscious of what spaces are available, what they're being used for, and how we can improve on current usage.

General portfolio

Though VPI holds many responsibilities, I believe that a SUS executive should strive to expand beyond their portfolio and contribute their time to other initiatives. In holding with that ideal, there are a few areas that could use improvement outside of the VPI portfolio.

Open education

Buying textbooks and online access codes can rack up costs just as quickly as tuition. We need to move towards using free, or highly discounted resources to keep costs down — a very attainable goal if we start locally at UFV by coordinating with departments and individual professors.

Timely graduation

Finishing a degree in 4 years, even if you know exactly what you want to study, is a challenge at UFV. The solution is hiring more professors, offering more classes, and planning more thoroughly.

Clear communication

Students rely on UFV and SUS to deliver correct and up-to-date information via their websites. These platforms need to be regularly updated and ideally offer bidirectional communication.

Political involvement

While SUS should be non-partisan, it should use its influence with local politicians. If they want access to our riding, they'll need policies that positively impact students. SUS should wield its political influence.

We are a union

It's easy to forget what SUS stands for — the Student Union Society. As a union, SUS should be advocating on the behalf of students. It should address the concerns of its membership and negotiate with the university for better student outcomes. SUS needs to return to its roots as a union; it needs to be approachable to its students and firm with the university.

These points, both in the VPI portfolio and general portfolio, form the crux of my platform. However, the hope that I hold for SUS is that it will truly become a voice for the people. Your concerns are my concerns and I aim to advocate on your behalf. If you want a candidate that delivers their best, every day that they're in office — I'd ask that you vote for me. Thanks for taking the time to read my statement.