

Elect Thomas Cohen ➤ VPS 2019 - 2020



Candidate Statement for Tom Cohen

Vice President Students 2019-2020

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Who am I?

My name is **Tom**. I've been coming to **UFV** since **2012** and I've switched my major twice! First I wanted to be a **marine biologist**, then a **psychologist** and I've finally settled with **rock wizard**. I'm in my 3rd year of a BSc in Physical Geography. I grew up in the **U.K.**, moved to Canada at 15 and settled in **Mission** with my family. I even lived in **Australia** for a while! I am great at making friends and am an **avid competitive eSports fan!**



Why me?

I've been coming to **UFV** for a long time now: I know **this university is a great place to meet people and make amazing memories. I love it here!** I founded **UFV's** first major video gaming gaming club, **eSports Valley**, in 2013. Since then, I've **hosted multiple events on campus**. Being a part of the **community at UFV Abbotsford**, both in **Chilliwack** and **Mission** as well, has given me some **great ideas** to help **create support networks** and **bring people together**. The **#1 priority is students** and I plan to **direct SUS down a progressive path**.



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What I'm here to accomplish

1. MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMMING

I want to allocate **more resources to mental health and understanding**, such as the possibility of a **mental wellbeing absence day** in the fall semester.

I wish to advocate for more UFV services like **mental health counselling, group therapy sessions** and **reliable coursework extensions**.

2. LIFE PROGRAMMING

I want to **communicate with UFV** and **official partners** alongside the VPE to create **work opportunities associated with degrees**, and promote more use of **free resources** on campus such as the writing centre and SUS computer lab.

I will **program events** that teach students about **financial literacy, stability** and the importance of proper **budgeting**.

3. CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL PROGRAMMING

I will **program a set of events** that will help students **learn about other cultures, religions and traditions**, such as **cultural exploration and sensitivity days** and **holy book days**.

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Another thing I want to **improve** is the **sense of community** on the Abbotsford campus. I'm **positive** that I can add **fun and professional polish** to all of our events and programming.

Even more important is **empowering students** to create the community they want to see at UFV. **Students know what they want**: I want to give students the tools they need to succeed in running their favourite events.

4. PHYSICAL WELLNESS PROGRAMMING

Keeping **fit and healthy** is an important part of being a student, and life beyond. I will create **repeatable scheduled events** that focus on **group activities** where people can **stay healthy together, make lifelong friends and win prizes!**

Events like: Sports day, Ball hockey, Yoga, Meditation, Napping sessions, Health seminars and more.

5. MY GOALS FOR SUS

I understand that resources are finite, and I want to work with the rest of SUS and UFV to look into **resource redistribution** to ensure that we're responsibly using our fees.

Finally, I want to advocate for **more straightforward bureaucratic processes at UFV**: appealing grades, finding volunteer positions, and navigating the UFV website can all be simplified with a little work.

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This is an image of one of UBC's **video gaming lounges**, where teams of players or friends can come together to play video games. As **captain of the UFV League of Legends video game team**, it has always been one of my **dreams to create this for our community** here at **UFV**. -Photo courtesy of The Thunderbird UBC's Journalism newspaper.



Hosting large events and seeing the smiles on people's faces has always been one of my greatest pleasures as a student at UFV.

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Photo taken at the 2016 overnight charity event - Child's Play.

I've been a member of the clubs and associations circuit at UFV for an extended time and it was an absolute blast. **I want to support C&A as much as possible**, especially because that's where the heart of student community lies.



An image of the 2016 eSports Valley election group.

I am eager to face new challenges and create an engaging, student driven and safe community!

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