



JALEEN MACKAY

2019-2020 Presidential Candidate Statement



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(PS: The digital version of this document is highly interactive. Click on things!)



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Candidate Statement



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Student Advocacy Centre



Office of the
Registrar

UFV Fees

Political Activism





PLATFORM

ADVOCACY | TRANSPARENCY | ACTIVISM

1

Student Advocacy Centre

If elected, I will create a Student Advocacy Centre on campus. This centre will match students with an advocate from the Student Union who can provide free, confidential advice on a wide variety of student issues. Student Union advocates will receive trauma-informed training on consent, disclosure, and referrals to other services, ensuring that students receive the best possible support. Some example issues are provided below.

Racism, Sexism, and Other Discrimination

"My professor singles me out in class because I'm an 'ethnic student'."

"During a group project, my group members said they didn't want to work with women."

Sexual Violence and Harassment

"I'm a survivor of sexual violence and I want to know what my options are."

"A professor told me that my final grade depended on a 'favour'."

"Someone is bullying me. What can I do about it?"

Academic Integrity and Fairness

"One of my classes has unfair deadlines and changing expectations."

"UFV said I plagiarized my essay: why did this happen?"

2

UFV Fee Transparency

If elected, I will clarify how student fees are being collected and used by UFV. There are two (2) major fees that need to be broken down:

1. The Experiential Learning and Wellness (ELW) Fee
2. Ancillary Fees

Experiential Learning and Wellness (ELW) Fee

In short, UFV has actively and deliberately hidden how this fee is being used. SUS has repeatedly requested explanations from UFV: every time SUS has asked, UFV has obfuscated or made excuses. The ELW Fee is set at 2% of tuition. If you pay \$2000 in tuition, for example, you pay an additional \$40 into this fee. A Winter 2017 document from UFV provides a rough estimation of how fees are allocated: about \$350,000 is available for a mix of staffing, programming, and educational funding.

“Okay,” you say, “We’re paying about \$350,000 annually for experiential learning and wellness services at UFV. That makes sense... Right?”

I’ve seen an internal ELW document from UFV for the 2018-2019 year. It allocates \$536,473 to experiential learning and \$90,326 to student wellness for a total of \$626,799.

UFV’s 2017-2018 Annual Financial Report provides no further clarity, listing only an aggregate of tuition and student fees at \$50,518,582.

What ARE we paying for and how much is being collected?

...

We don’t know.

This fee begs the following questions:

- Why is the 2018-2019 allocation (\$626,799) **almost two times** the listed allocation from just two years ago in 2016-2017 (\$350,000)?
- Did UFV even list the full allocation in the **only supporting document** ever provided publicly?
- Why won't UFV **explain** what they're doing with the funds?
- What is UFV doing with **all of this money**?
- Are students actually **benefitting** from this fee?

Ancillary Fees

Ancillary fees are set to **10% of tuition**, "provid[ing] support for activities, athletics, library and technical services, legacy fund, student accident insurance, and student space."

SUS has not, to my knowledge, inquired recently about ancillary fees. Given the lack of transparency on the ELW fee, it seems unlikely that UFV would be forthcoming with the information anyways.

I will find and release all possible information to the student body — after all, wouldn't you like to know what UFV is doing with the additional 12% fee stacked on your tuition?

3

Political Activism

If elected, I will enter discussions with municipal and provincial governments to advocate for students in a wide variety of areas, such as transportation, housing, and sexual violence policy.

MUNICIPAL

1. Add the Fraser Valley Express (66 FVX) to the U-PASS agreement
2. Review and revise bus schedules to support student schedules
3. Ensure that students have access to affordable housing via municipal land planning discussions

PROVINCIAL

1. Introduce legislation to penalize non-compliance with the **Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy Act (Bill 23)**
2. Introduce legislation allowing survivors to know the outcome of a sexual violence investigation with focus on the **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (PIPPA)**

WHO AM I?



Studies

I am an upper-level Biology student with a background in human physiology and ecology. Kind of a strange mix, I know.

I used to be in pre-med.
Life is better out of pre-med. 😊

These days, I'm also a law school hopeful. My dream is to go to the Peter A. Allard School of Law at UBC and become a practicing lawyer.



Hometown

I've lived in Chilliwack my entire life — I love it here and would never move anywhere else, given the opportunity.

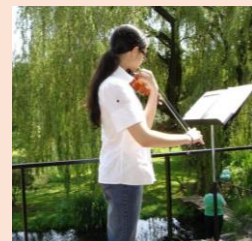
My favourite place in Chilliwack is probably the area around campus. I love the campus grounds, which are always well-kept and beautiful. The area also boasts the Sardis library, a few parks, and the Chilliwack River. It's perfect!



Hobbies

When I'm not working or studying, I'm probably playing an instrument or a videogame. I studied classical violin for over a decade and currently play guitar to wind down.

Some games I've recently played are *Life is Strange*; *Subnautica*; *Kingdom: New Lands*; and *League of Legends*. I've really been enjoying my breaks!



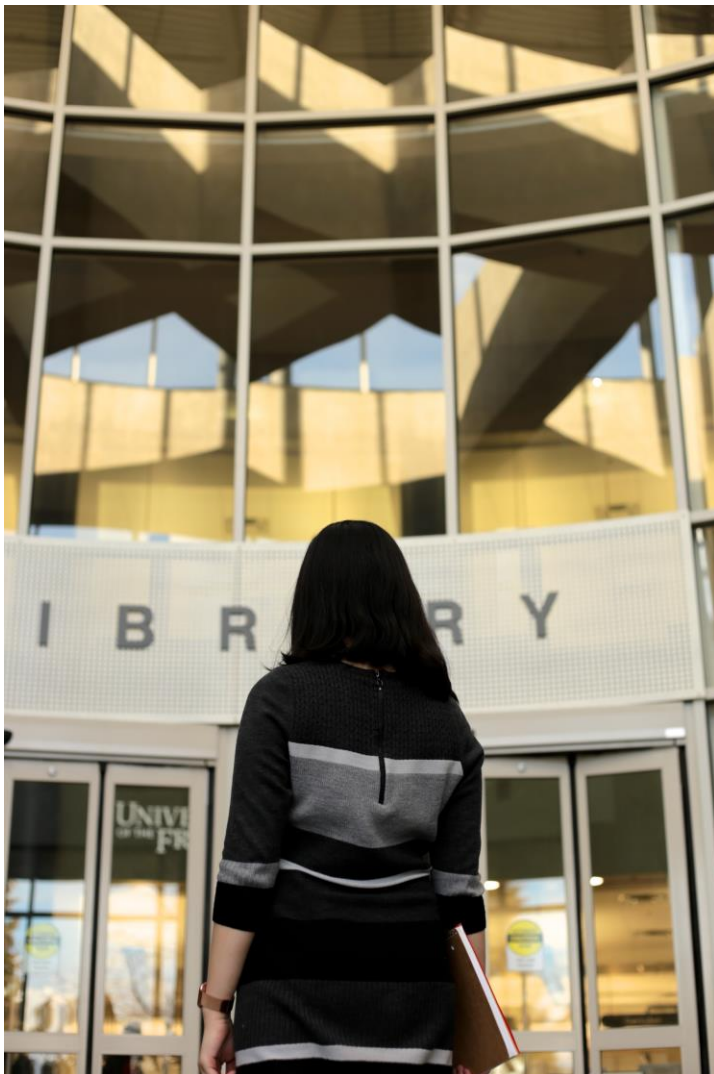
MY PERSPECTIVE

Commuting

I was a **commuter student** without a car for most of my time at UFV. A typical one-way commute from my home in Chilliwack was about 1.25 hours:

I took a bus to get to the Campus Connector.

As such, *I'm very familiar with how delays and long wait times negatively impact students.*



Advocacy

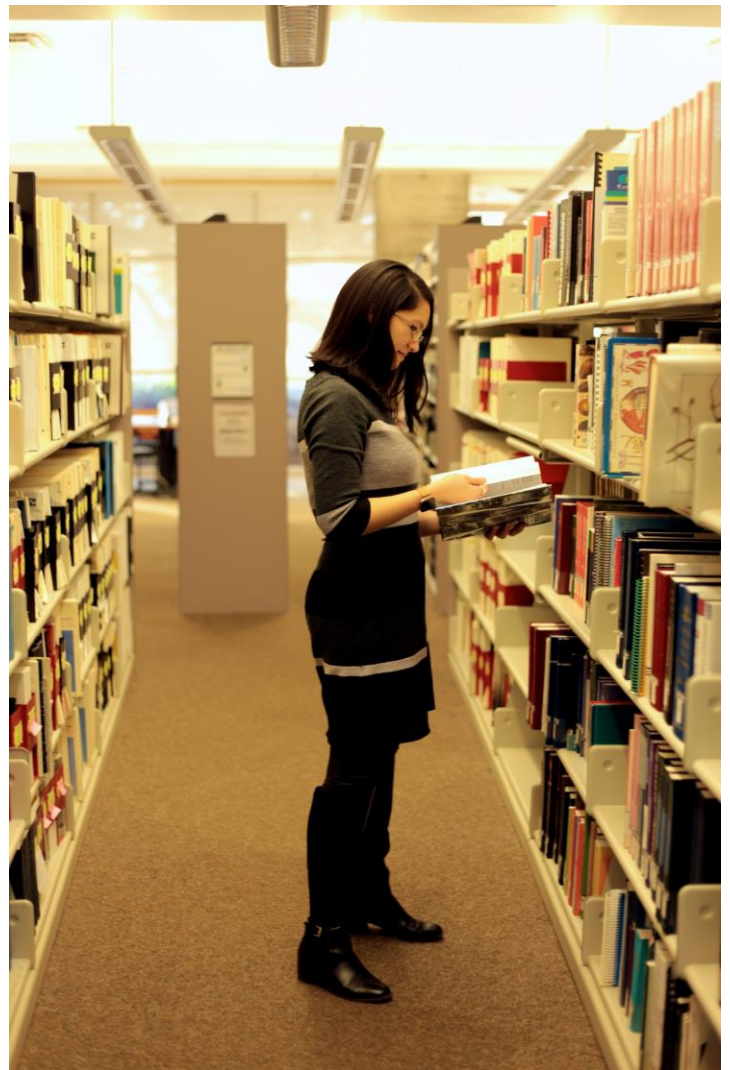
I've worked as your **Vice President Internal** at the Student Union for the past two years. I am intimately familiar with UFV's administration and systems.

I have stood up to the university, protesting the ELW fee. I have critiqued sexual violence policy. *I have spoken truth to power during my term in office.* Give me the chance to do it again — I know I can deliver on student asks.

Community

I've been at UFV long enough to build lasting friendships and watch the campus change, year after year. In many ways, extracurricular experiences and social opportunities are far more enriching than lectures.

I know we can create community at UFV, despite the reputation as a commuter campus.



Academics

Science is a challenging discipline that forces you to learn practical and theoretical concepts. I've had really difficult semesters in the program and weathered myriad grades across the spectrum. I know what it's like to struggle and fail during the semester. I've developed my own opinions and thoughts on education at UFV. I have clear and articulated plans for how I will improve the classroom experience.

EXPERIENCE

CERTIFICATIONS | VOLUNTEERISM | WORK

Certifications

2017 – Mental Health First Aid (*Mental Health Commission of Canada*)

2017 – Leadership Principles / Directors and Officers (DnO) Training (*Vantage Point*)

2017 – Risk Management and Legal Liability Training

Volunteerism

Conservation Biology (2017 – Present)



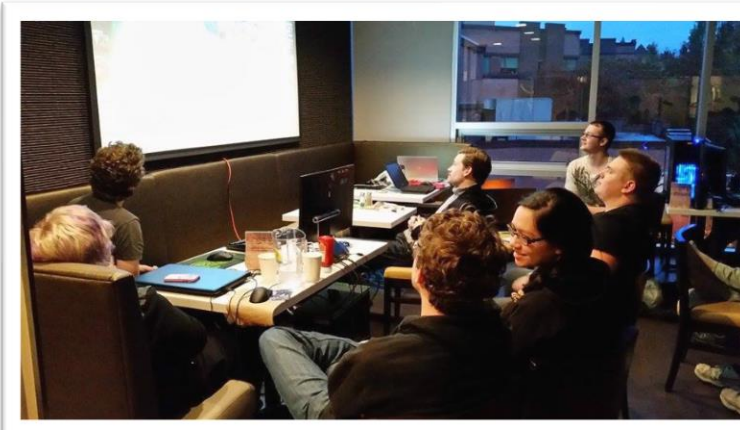
I am passionate about the environment and I've done a bit of **conservation work** as a volunteer.

(← Left): I removed Himalayan Blackberry at Widgeon Marsh in Minnekhada Regional Park. It was wet.

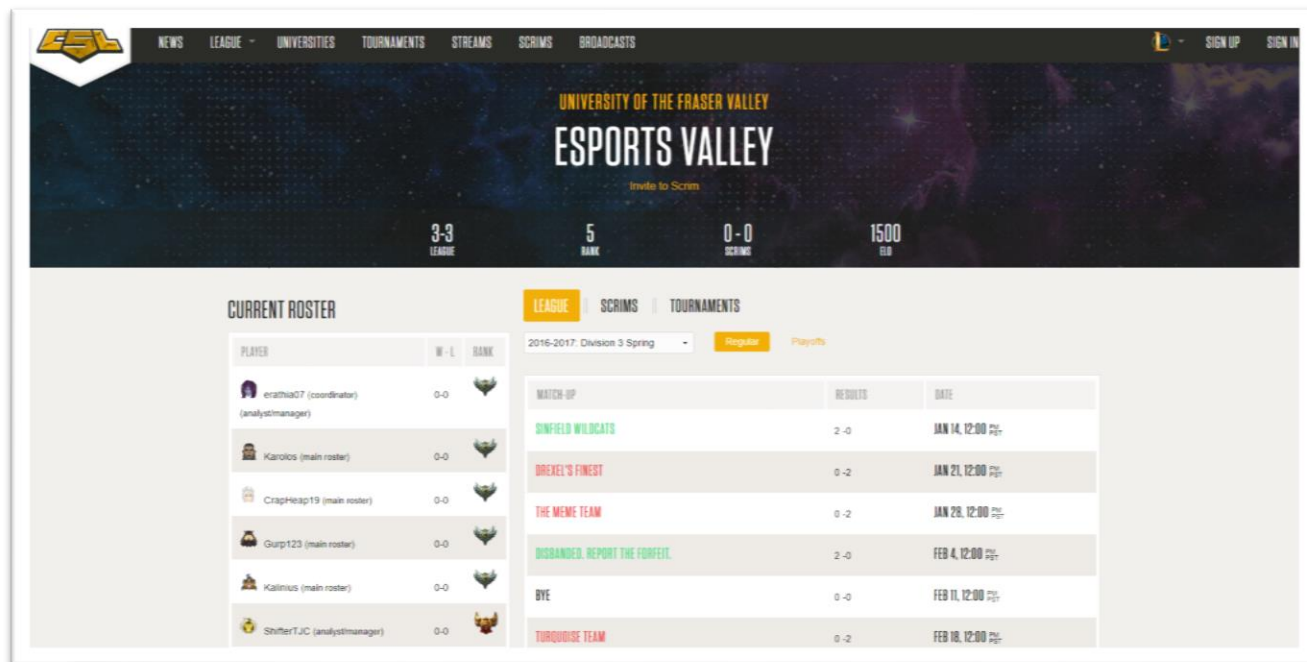
(Right →): I helped plant some baby hardhack, sweet gale, and Nootka Rose plants at the Stave River Wetlands.



(← Left): My group won an award at the CityStudio Hubbub, a sort of battle royale for specific group projects at UFV. Our research focused on how we could improve the wetland diversity of the dock area along Mill Lake Park in Abbotsford. We also won pizza with Mayor Braun.



I also managed our *collegiate League of Legends team* and often played as the *starting Support*. I believe, to this day, that being the team manager was one of the most important professional development opportunities I've ever had.



Clubs and Associations – UFV Advocacy for Men and Boys (2016 – 2017)

I was the founder and president of UFV Advocacy for Men and Boys. I held my position from August 2016 until April 2017 and ran two speaker events.

My first speaker event was “*Teaching a New Masculinity*” with Brendan Kwiatkowski, who examined social and emotional issues of masculinity as part of his Masters thesis.



My next speaker event was “How to Help Men Get Help” with professional counsellor Jeff Conners. The session examined sociocultural barriers to men accessing mental wellness supports.



I also hosted a screening of *The Red Pill* by filmmaker Cassie Jaye.



I learned a lot about the importance of tabling, delegating, and having supportive peers from UFVAMB.



Local Governments (2018)

I have worked as a volunteer for an MLA and a local mayoral candidate: both opportunities resulted in unexpected personal growth.



SUS Opportunities (2016 – Present)

I started at SUS as a volunteer. In 2016, I was a member of the Equalities Committee. I would later graduate to grunt work at events such as **Eid al-Adha** and The Art of Coming Out. I have moved *a great many chairs* in the past few years and I'm well-equipped to run these events as President.



Work

Clubs and Associations (2017 – Present)

I've had the pleasure of working with various clubs and associations (C&A) during my past two terms as Vice President Internal (VPI). My responsibilities included the maintenance of a master C&A list; answering policy inquiries; and **processing C&A paperwork**, such as fund requests and registration packages. I also attended several C&A events, such as a Diwali celebration and a visit from Green Party Leader Elizabeth May.

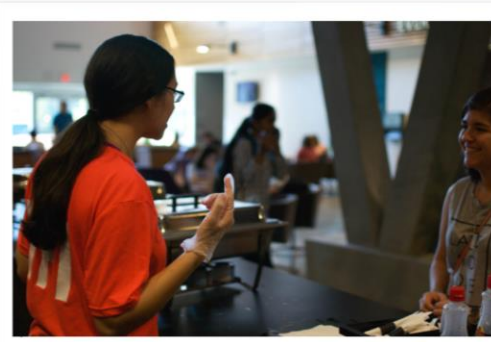
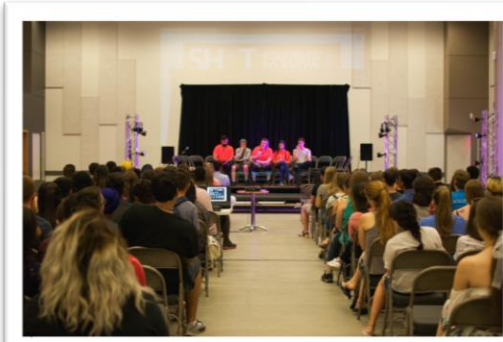


As a VPI, I have hosted **multiple successful C&A events**. In 2017, I planned and executed a C&A Week had excellent turnout. In 2018, I partnered with our VP Students and UFV Student Life to host U-Join, which was a resounding success.



Orientation (2017 – Present)

I have two years of experience with planning and executing Orientation. I designed a “chill zone” for the Fall 2018 Orientation, complete with a **litany of games**. The “chill zone” never came to fruition, mostly due to space constraints, but I would like to reuse the planning I did for another event in the future. I’ve done everything from serving pancakes to serving on panels.



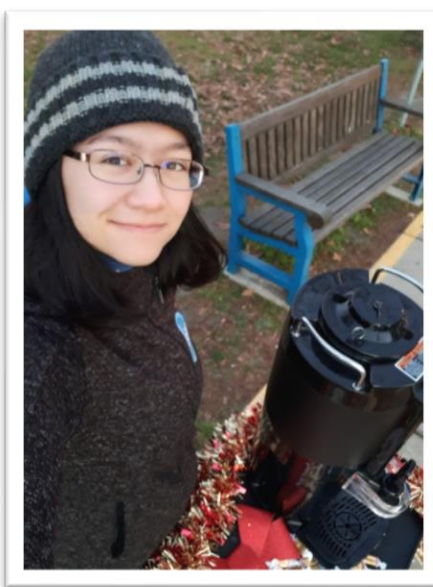
Angel Tree Program (2017 – Present)

The Angel Tree Program is a major undertaking each year with food hampers, anonymization of gifts, and delivery of gifts to recipients. In 2017, I helped organize an event — Winter FUNderland — alongside C&A, raising about **\$4,000** for the Program. (I also put up the angels!)



Coffee and Cookies (2017 – Present)

I personally delivered coffee and cookies to students during exam periods. More recently, I ensured that the **Trades campus** was serviced. 10/10, would recommend — Trades students are great.



Conferences (2017 – Present)

I've attended some meaningful conferences: Studentcare, Students for Liberty, and the Alliance of British Columbian Students stand out. At Studentcare, I learned about **best practices for contacting media organizations** during a session from Aphrodite Salas, an award-winning broadcast journalist. During the Students for Liberty conference, I heard topical arguments regarding **free speech and Canadian legislation**. These conferences presented excellent opportunities for networking, professional development, and inquiry. Also I met Bret Weinstein.



Gayme Day (2018 – Present)

This program is my brainchild. Like many of the LAN events I hosted, I wanted to make the name into a pun. Thus, Gayme (**Gay + Game**) Day was born. I hoped to create an inclusive space where introverts could meet new people and engage in the hobbies they already enjoy. The turnout for these events has been quite good. You could say that it is my *pride* and joy.



UFV Events (2017 – Present)

I've been fortunate to receive many invitations to UFV events during my term in office. Meeting new and different people has become a core part of my life — I am always learning and growing thanks to the people around me. Growth comes in many different forms, sometimes from somber reflection. The first time I heard of **École Polytechnique** was at a UFV event. Without that invitation from UFV, I'm not sure I would have realized or appreciated the misogyny and violence that has existed at Canadian universities.

UFV has taught me humility, patience, and acceptance over the course of many years. I love this institution and I hope I can give back to students with one more term in office.

