

Keara Parsons

Vice President Students 2020



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Personal Summary

Hi! My name is Keara Parsons and I would like to run for the position of Vice President Students. I am currently attending my third year at UFV studying in a Bachelor of Arts with a major in French and a minor in English literature. I love being social and meeting new people as well as volunteering at local schools helping spread my passion for learning and French. I am inspired by people who express optimism and joy and work to support and uplift others and moreover people who believe in the world rather than are crushed by it. I would like to run for this position as I have a passion for our school and our community. Supporting all organizations at our school is an instrumental part of creating community in my opinion, and I feel I am the right person to foster growth and support for our clubs.



Candidate Statement

As VPS I aim to support the growth and development of all clubs and associations. With this, I understand experience and knowledge are necessary factors in fulfilling this job and doing right by those I wish to help. I have a wide breadth of knowledge and experiences that I feel would make me an excellent candidate for this position and would allow me to fulfill the responsibilities to the fullest.

Skills I have that will make me the right fit for this position are my friendly and understanding personality alongside my abilities to work hard, be fair, and time manage effectively. I feel these attributes make me a good candidate as it is important to be both approachable and dependable.

Within the description of duties for this position I have experience that directly pertains to the responsibilities: I have worked in management for numerous years and additionally have worked in tutoring and volunteer programs in schools. I am familiar with the work necessary and the experiences of all sides involved thus representing my insight and experience with such matters.

As many of my classmates and colleagues are involved with clubs, tutoring, and various other school involvements I have seen first-hand some of their struggles. Often, it has been expressed that there is frequent uncertainty and confusion with what they are handling and don't know who to reach out to or how to gain the support they need. For those uninvolved it is often said that when events happen, they aren't broadcasted enough and often go unnoticed as nobody hears of them. To tackle these issues I would work to create clarity and communication with all organizations and make efforts to ensure all members of the UFV community know what is going on and how/ who to reach out to; whether that be association leaders reaching out to me or potential club members reaching out to leaders.

Goals

As VPS I would;

Support Mental-Wellness in Clubs and Associations.

I feel that club environments represent a safe space for students at UFV, being surrounded by peers with similar interests can lead to greater support and understanding than in other environments. I feel that given the opportunity; **I would like to implement crisis support as a part of the benefits of being in a club.** As professors can contact our counsellors to get immediate help for students, I would like to offer club executives the choice to approach executive members of the Student Union with concerns of struggling members. With this I would like to make it so that within the union we can contact counsellors to reach out to students.

Find Better Ways to Promote Clubs and Events.

Running a club is already a difficult task, but it can be further disheartening to plan an event for community engagement and end up having a less-than-desirable turnout. Numerous club members have expressed to me disappointment in their turnout at events and meetings due to the lack of campus interest and their lack of exposure outside their programs. **I want to work with clubs to find better and more effective ways to create community engagement outside of social media posts and posters.** I will work closely and communicate with club executives to help find suitable and attention grabbing ways to recruit new group members and enhance attendance at meetings.

Create a Stronger Community Between Clubs.

Ways that I plan to do this is create a greater inter-club society where club executives would get the opportunity to meet and share their ideas and network. To achieve this I would organize opportunities for members to meet for networking and to share their concerns amongst each other and myself in a low-stress environment that would allow for genuine communication. **If I was elected VPS, I feel it would be an important aspect of my work to create a strong relationship with clubs to allow for transparency and assistance wherever needed.** Therefore, by hosting such events this would become a stepping stone to growing our SUS community.

Foster Growth Within the UFV Community.

UFV is often regarded as a “commuter school” as our student body consists of a diverse community from all across the Fraser Valley. A problem associated with this is that often students don’t have incentive to stay on campus and be engaged outside of class times. **As VPS I would work on innovative ways to create incentive to stay on campus and inspire students to become a part of our growing UFV community.** Some ideas I would have for this would be creating more outdoor spaces using cost effective materials so students could have a space to enjoy and meet. Additionally, I would look for ways to create inviting events for people not associated with clubs to attend as a way to grow our community and to offer club members networking opportunities.

Streamline Funding Processes for Clubs.

An issue that plagues many club members that I have spoken with is funding requests. A frequent comment that I have come across is that it does not feel as though the money is readily available or that one can get it. While I understand the protocol to request funding is a process that requires time to complete I feel that a lack of understanding on how to get it and clarity of the procedure are the core problems at hand. **As VPS I would work alongside to revise the fund request procedure to the most possible extent so as to cater more to the needs and understanding of clubs and association.**

Summary

My goal, if given this opportunity is to foster growth within the UFV community to strengthen the bonds between students and clubs to create greater campus involvement. I aim to build mental health assistance into our Student Union Society alongside my work to create a stronger UFV community and create engagement and greater recruitment for our clubs and associations whilst making running a club more streamlined and simple. I graciously ask you for your consideration in this election with the promise to fulfill my goals and become a great addition to the UFV Student Union Executive Team.

With Much Gratitude,

Keara Parsons