

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONSTITUENCY**

(ONE to be elected)

The following undergraduate students have been nominated for membership on the Board of Governors (term from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026). Candidate statements are provided below.

1. **CHOU, Oscar** – Social Science
2. **HENRICUS, Kathleena (Kat)** – International Relations & SASAH / Social Science
3. **MEHTA, Payal** – Biology / Science
4. **SHERZAI, Sahil** – Political Science / Social Science
5. **SVIRSKY, Daniel** – HBA & JD / Ivey
6. **YU, Bruce** – Management & Organizational Studies / Social Science

**CHOU, Oscar**

***Social Science***

In this world, there are two things I believe no one should tolerate: slow walkers and representatives who blindly align with powerful agendas. I'm Oscar Chou, a first-year student studying international relations. I am committed to addressing challenging issues such as our budget by cutting anything that is less important and only keeping the things that we need.

What's a first year without passion and determination. I want to actively engage with you and ensure your voices heard in deciding how university funds are allocated. I am also dedicated to inspiring both current and future students to speak up. Drawing from my experience as a teaching assistant, I am accustomed to attentively listening to suggestions and incorporating diverse perspectives – qualities essential for any effective governor. My priority is to enhance mental health and stress reduction resources throughout the university, not just during exams season but year-round. My mission is to create a passionate and unified university, gathering place, home, for every student, but it will only work with your support!



**HENRICUS, Kathleena (Kat)**

***International Relations & SASAH /  
Social Science***

My name is Kathleena (Kat) Henricus and I am a third-year International Relations & SASAH student seeking to represent you, and all Western undergraduates, on Western's Board of Governors. Over the past year, I have served students as the Chair of the USC's board of directors, motivated by a desire to increase the accessibility of the USC to students and to reduce risks to the student experience through good governance. I have also advocated for student-centric academic policy on Senate, compelled by the opportunity to platform the realities of student life and action them into compassionate policy. From these experiences, I have developed a deep understanding of Western's governance that I will leverage to ensure that the students of today are Western's central focus. As your Board of Governors representative, I will increase the transparency of board activities through reports to USC-elected representatives. I will also seek to expand the active recognition of our concerns and our desires for what kind of place Western should be with increased student consultations. The practices and governance of Western affect us all, and you deserve a university that is focused on responsible stewardship for *you*. I am the candidate to get you there.



**MEHTA, Payal**

***Biology / Science***

I'm thrilled to express my sincere interest in the Board of Governors position, a journey rooted in a deep passion for advocacy that has evolved through my roles as a first-year representative on the Western Science Students' Council and more recently as a USC representative at OUSA. Beginning as a first-year representative, I immersed myself in understanding and addressing student concerns at a grassroots level. This experience laid the foundation for my commitment to advocacy, and as a USC representative at OUSA, I've had the privilege of amplifying those voices on a broader scale. This progression has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of the diverse challenges our students face and the intricate dynamics of effective advocacy. My recent role at OUSA has particularly sharpened my skills, allowing me to navigate complex issues and contribute meaningfully to the advocacy landscape. What sets me apart is my unique perspective and intersectional approach stemming from my identity as an LGBTQ+ woman of color. These intersecting identities have sensitized me to the nuanced needs of our diverse student body, ensuring an inclusive representation that addresses the multifaceted challenges faced by students.

**SHERZAI, Sahil**

***Political Science / Social Science***

Hello, my name is Sahil, and I would be a great addition to the Board of Governors due to my range of expertise and credentials. I've developed my data analysis and policy assessment abilities and gained insights into successful government working as a research assistant at the Centre for Urban Policy and Local Government. My participation in the Muslim Student Association has improved my capacity to represent a variety of viewpoints by broadening my awareness of multicultural perspectives. Being of Afghan descent, I have an aptitude for relating to people from other backgrounds. Volunteering at Kumon and Pharmasave gave me a strong sense of civic duty. These experiences helped me understand the importance of inclusive decision-making and viewpoints to consider when creating policy. I want to make a helpful impact on our institution, so I want to run for the Board of Governors. By concentrating on policies that serve a diverse student body, particularly those from underserved communities, I hope to offer an inclusive viewpoint by ensuring that choices made at the board level define the interests and goals of the whole university community.



**SVIRSKY, Daniel**

***HBA & JD / Ivey***

(1) As a fourth-year student in the JD/HBA dual program at Ivey and Western Law, I possess an unparalleled blend of legal and business knowledge. This background will enable me to perform the expected tasks of a Governor, including financial oversight and policy development. (2) I am a two-time national university debating champion. I have spent many weekends (successfully) debating against top institutions like Harvard, Yale, and Oxford.



In a Board comprised of distinguished professors and campus leaders, I am well-equipped to relentlessly advocate for student interests.

(3) With extensive campus leadership experience, I have a deep understanding of Western and its student body. My past and current roles include overseeing \$100,000 in grants as USC Grants Coordinator, serving as a Social Science soph, and acting as president of Western Debate, among 12 other positions.

(4) My platform is both ambitious and grounded in reality. I have done thorough research, and I won't make false promises about a Governor's capabilities. My advocacy pillars include (a) keeping tuition stable, (b) building more upper-year residences, (c) increasing investment funding into sustainable opportunities, and (d) holding EDI initiatives accountable.

**YU, Bruce**

***Management & Organizational Studies  
/ Social Science***

My name is Bruce Yu, and I'm excited to be running to be your undergraduate representative on the Western Board of Governors. As YRDSB Student Trustee, I fought for students inside and outside of the boardroom, winning over a million dollars in new mental health funding, protecting free and fair democratic student council elections, and advocating for fair assessments in the national media. I listened and delivered. I later brought my advocacy to the national and provincial level, leading a Canadian education charity and testifying at the Ontario legislature about education reform.



I'm excited to continue this work on the Board of Governors where I will champion common-sense governance that puts student affordability and your well-being first. As your representative, you can count on me to oppose arbitrary tuition hikes, never-ending student fees, accountability for professors, and advocate for a better student absence reporting system. I'm collaborative at heart, but I'm not afraid to be the lone dissenting voice if that means standing up for what's right for students. A vote for Bruce Yu to be your voice on the Board of Governors is a vote for tested and principled leadership with a proven track record of getting things done.