

Hi Arts students! My name is Mateusz Salmassi, I'm a 3rd year international psychology student, and I'm running to be re-elected as your FASA president!

I've had the pleasure of working hard as FASA president to achieve the goals of my previous platform while developing leadership in the next generation of Arts students. I aim to finish what I started in my first term this year by bringing more students into the fold and bringing last year's lessons to a second term.

FASA is uniquely positioned to help address Arts students' needs, whether they be academic like in-person exam challenges, or financial like rising tuition and a loss of program funding. I will:

Continue to oppose budget cuts and tuition hikes by:

1. Aiding Arts departments organizing student strikes
 - a. This year, Drama students organized the first student strike in Alberta postsecondary history. They used direct democracy to make the decision to do so, and their model of General Meetings can be expanded to any and all programs on campus.
2. Expanding membership within the Alberta Coalition for Affordable Tuition (ACAT)
 - a. We founded a provincial coalition last year that aims to increase local student group involvement at the provincial level, and we've co-organized two Alberta Student Days of Action as the first steps!
3. Building greater partnerships with other faculty associations on campus
 - a. We're stronger together! And that means creating cooperation beyond our own Arts faculty.

Improve Arts students' academic experience by:

1. Supporting outreach to grow the Arts Undergraduate Research Symposium
 - a. Active outreach via mass emails, social media, and class talks can only further raise the profile of AURS and its benefits to Arts students!
2. Working with VP Academic and Comms to promote students' academic rights
 - a. Do you know how to get a term work deferral, where to get academic support, or about upcoming bursary deadlines? As FASA, we can use our platform to more thoroughly inform students of our options!
3. Expanding FASA's partnership with the Student Success Centre Working Group
 - a. We can increase department representative involvement in the SSC working group, which has been promoting and hosting academic skill and support workshops.

Implement justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion principles by:

1. Initiating anti-racism training for executives and council
 - a. FASA must ensure that our organization is welcoming to BIPOC and all marginalized students. We can get ahead of this by implementing anti-racism training from the beginning for our council.

2. Forging meaningful relationships with anti-poverty and racial justice organizations both on and off-campus
 - a. Student life doesn't stop off-campus. Students' ability to obtain our education can both start and stop in our communities within the city. FASA can support the great work of organizations off-campus achieving these goals.
3. Becoming a vocal advocate with FASA's new seat on the Arts Faculty EDI committee

Ensure sound policy and operational efficiency by:

1. Completing FASA's Department Association (DA) policy to build greater partnerships with department clubs
 - a. A completed department association policy will ensure a more formalized relationship with department organizations who want one. I envision a policy which results in elected council members and greater funding for department organizations.
2. Finalizing a VP Student Organizing executive position ready for election next year
 - a. As a volunteer-run and led organization, FASA needs to increase its capacity to meet its obligations and the current challenges of our circumstances. An executive with a dedicated portfolio for organizing is the best way to achieve this.
3. Recruiting early for FASA's First Year Committee
 - a. We can expand FASA's capacity and longevity with a conscious focus on first year student involvement and leadership development. After reviving the First Year committee, we can now put greater focus on intentional investments into the committee's activities.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding my platform and campaign! I'm also always accepting volunteers.

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