



# **Strategic Plan**


University Students' Council Submission

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- Engaging the Future (2007)
- Update to Engaging the Future (2010)
- Western Strategic Mandate Agreement (2012)
- USC Budget Submission (2012/13)
- OUSA Educated Reform (2012)
- ChangeCamp Report (2012/13)
- Student Advocacy Forum (2012/13)
- USC Purple Papers
- USC Presidents' Caucus
- 2013 USC Election Platforms (Prabhu, Whelan, McGuire)

## **Documents Referenced**

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1. Supporting Students Inside the Classroom
  2. Experiencing the Community and the World
  3. Student Mental Health and Wellness
  4. Supporting Students Beyond the Classroom

# Themes

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## Undergraduate Research Opportunities

*“Increase involvement of undergraduate students through courses and programs that expose them to the excitement and challenge of university-level research” (Engaging the Future 4.2)*

- Increase opportunities for undergraduate students to engage with research activities.
- Encourage the spirit of lifelong learning through the research experience.
- Explore partnerships with community organizations to place students in research experiences that match their skills.

# Supporting Students Inside the Classroom

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## Teaching Fellows

*“Teaching Fellows will initiate and coordinate Faculty specific programming to respond to the teaching and learning needs of individual instructors, departments, schools and disciplines on innovation in curriculum development, technology assisted learning and access to courses locally and at a distance.” (SMA)*

- *Teaching Fellows are endorsed by both the USC and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance*

# Supporting Students Inside the Classroom

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## Online Learning

*“In keeping with the University’s focus on the student academic experience, e-learning at Western will be known for its student-centered pedagogical practices, its focus on deep and active learning, and its commitment to quality and outstanding academic standards.” (E-learning Task Force Interim Report)*

- *“Customizable and accessible classes are integral to the future of the student experience at Western. Online learning is an increasingly important element of post-secondary education. As Universities adopt more online learning practices they must ensure that quality and consistency of education does not suffer.” (USC ChangeCamp Report 2012/13)*

# Supporting Students Inside the Classroom

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## **Affordability & Accountability**

*“We are accountable to our students and the general public for the quality of our teaching, research and service to the community and for the effective use of our resources.” (Engaging the Future)*

- Per Credit Tuition
  - Attempt to calculate the ‘true cost’ of a University course
- Referendum Planning Group
  - Develop a group of campus partners to plan and execute referendums needed to generate additional funding for special projects
- Student Donation Funds
  - Ensure that donation levies are not being used to sustain core responsibilities
  - Promote opt-out process
- Fair Payment Deadlines
  - Amend payment deadlines to align with OSAP funding and allow for penalty free deferrals

# **Supporting Students Inside the Classroom**

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## Success After Graduation

*“Career Counselors are vital to student development, goal creation, and goal fulfillment and should thus be highly integrated into the student experience. Western should provide program-specific counseling who are able to help students to identify their transferable skills.” (ChangeCamp Report 2012/13)*

- Continue with current efforts being made to enhance Western’s career counseling services.

# Enhancing Your World and the Community

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## Internships and Community Opportunities

*“Western should provide better co-op and internship opportunities for every program or provide better counseling services to help students to attain these positions.” (ChangeCamp Report 2012/13)*

- Develop an internship/co-op program that matches student skills with organizations that need them and are willing to contribute to the learning environment
- Work with the London community to identify skills gaps that can be filled by student interns.

# Enhancing Your World and the Community

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## Support for International and Exchange Students

*“Establish an International Centre on campus, to serve as a central location for international student services, counseling and referrals, and to be the focal point for cross-cultural activities.” (Engaging the Future 5.6)*

- Continue to develop the suite of services offered by Western International for incoming students
- Develop services to assist students with the cultural, personal and cognitive process of leaving campus for exchange and the process of returning home.
- Ensure that students have a strong student experience during study abroad programs.
- Create a Culture and Faith support department in Western International

# Enhancing Your World and the Community

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## Support for Student Entrepreneurship

*“Students appreciate the current services offered by BizInc but desire a greater level of support for entrepreneurial activities.” (USC Presidents’ Caucus)*

- Develop a program to support undergraduate and graduate entrepreneurs at all stages in their idea development.

# Enhancing Your World and the Community

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## Western Commission on Mental Health and Wellness

*“Create a report modeled after the Queen’s Principal’s Commission on Mental Health that identifies ways to reduce stress in all aspects of University life and provide holistic recommendations that would promote wellness on campus.” (Western Momentum Platform)*

- Commission a report on ways that Western can improve and coordinate its efforts to reduce student stress and improve overall wellness

# Student Mental Health and Wellness

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## Evaluation Policies

*“Academic evaluation is one of the great contributors to student stress. The University should conduct a review of its evaluation policies to ensure that unnecessary stress is eliminated.” (Student Advocacy Forum)*

- Create a system that allows students to review accommodation at any time of the year if multiple ‘heavy-weight’ evaluations occur in close proximity to each other.
- Encourage inter-faculty coordination of all methods of evaluation.
- Amend Western’s 3 exams in 23 hours exam accommodation policy.

# Student Mental Health and Wellness

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## **VP Student Affairs and Strategic Plan for Student Support Services**

*“An effective support system requires coordination to pull various units together under a common vision to efficiently serve student needs. The Office of the Vice President Student Affairs would serve to strengthen the senior administrations connection to students, student groups and organizations; enhance Western’s responsiveness to student concerns; help to develop a strategic vision for student support; and begin to explore ways to further involve students in decision making processes.” (USC Budget Submission 2012/13*

- Create the Office of Student Affairs
- Develop a Strategic Plan for Student Support Services
- Amend Western’s 3 exams in 23 hours exam accommodation policy.

# **Supporting Students Beyond the Classroom**

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**Thank You!**

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