



ORGANIZATION OF PART-TIME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

OPUS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014

Volume 1, Issue 9

Our Mission Statement:

OPUS collaborates with the University of Windsor community to identify and promote the collective interests of part-time undergraduate students.

What is OPUS at the University of Windsor?

OPUS is the Organization of Part-Time University students, a student group made up of volunteer part-time students who advocate on behalf of part-time students. OPUS was established in 1970 to provide a means for part-time students to have their voices heard on campus. At OPUS, we believe that part-time students have different needs, concerns and problems distinct from those of the rest of the undergraduate student body. These students work hard to balance their many responsibilities of home, family, work, and education. OPUS attempts to help students cope with the additional pressure of studies and the adjustment to an academic environment.

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The Current OPUS Executive/Staff consists of:

President	Ed King
Vice President	Anthony Meloche
Treasurer	Hussein Ahmed
Director At Large	Berni Doctor Mahbub Khoda Chris Baillargeon Erin Plumb Micheal Livingston Peter Soteros
Executive Director	Maryan Amalow
Health Plan Administrator	Steve Jancev
Work Study Students 2013—2014	Bikram Wahid Natasha Dore Rebecca Brown Reecha Panchal

A Message from the President



On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS), I would like to welcome all part-time students to the University of Windsor. We hope that your time at the University will be fruitful and fulfilling. OPUS represents part-time students, provides a number of services, and advocates for students. We host orientation events for new students in January and August. We also have a number of activities for part-time students including a barbecue, an awards dinner, some potluck lunches, and several meetings with speakers on topics such as financial awards, student rights and responsibilities, stress management, and academic help. We are also members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and through this organization we lobby both the Federal and Provincial governments. We provide a health plan to our members with our CFS membership at a very competitive price.

We are primarily an advocacy organization. I am a voting member of the Board of Governors, which makes all financial decisions on behalf of the University. I also sit on committees of the Board of Governors. Along with three other OPUS members, I also sit on the Senate that makes the academic decisions for the University. Members of OPUS sit as voting members on all Senate Committees as well as many other committees at the University. In this way, we are able to represent the interests of part-time students on all issues both academic and financial. If you have a problem or think that any policies at the University should be changed, you can come to the OPUS office or email us at opus@uwindsor.ca, and we will see that the issue is taken to the appropriate committee.

We have an excellent "History of OPUS" written by Mary Schisler, a past president of OPUS. It is available online (www.uwindsor.ca/opus) or you can find a hard copy in the office.

We will also represent part-time distance education students who are taking distance education courses. I would recommend getting involved at the University outside of classes if your schedule allows. Going to the gym, being on an intramural team, joining a club or society, or getting involved with your students' union will make your university experience richer.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Edward King

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Members,

On behalf of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS), I am delighted to extend much appreciation and greetings to everyone making use of our newsletter. This newsletter is a kind of guide to give you up-to-date information on what has happened at OPUS throughout the past year. The 2014 Annual Newsletter is yet another high point for OPUS. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of OPUS to welcome all Part-Time Student members of the University of Windsor to our 10th annual Newsletter. I would like to begin my report by thanking the many people associated with OPUS who have made this past year an enjoyable and memorable one, with events like the OPUS Awards, Potluck, Orientation, Head start and OPUS Part-time Fall and winter social receptions.

I am proud to be a part of the OPUS team and grateful for the assistance and support from the Board of Directors, our work-study students and our volunteers. What we have been able to achieve together this year has benefited our students and that makes all the hard work worthwhile. I would like to thank each one of you individually, but there is not enough space to mention everyone. I will just say a simple, collective THANK YOU to all!

I would like to thank the University community that has helped us achieve this success in advocating for part-time student rights and access to a better education at the University of Windsor. We are always striving to create awareness of our organization and have developed programs to support that goal.

This past year our efforts have been directed at making clear the distinct advantages of facilitating the growth of the part-time student body by making services more user friendly and making more resources available for part-time students including our distance Ed members. OPUS strives to ensure that services are provided to meet the academic and social needs of part-time undergraduates on campus at the U of W. The objectives of OPUS services are to advance the quality of the total educational experience, in its broadest sense. For part-time students the best possible undergraduate education means one in which part-time students has the option of participating equally in all aspects of campus life.

In addition, as a part-time student at the University of Windsor, you are a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The CFS unites more than 500,000 students across Canada and more than 300,000 students in Ontario. Together, we can effectively advocate for an accessible high quality post-secondary education system and for students' rights at both the federal and provincial levels of government.

This past year, for the first time OPUS along with the University held an online meeting with students in order to make the experience of our part time and distance students the best it can be. OPUS has been on the lookout for new services and programs for part-time distance education students. To sum everything up, OPUS is providing more vital and better services for part-time students. Thank you all (part-time students, board members, health plan administrator, family members and volunteers) for your past and present involvement with OPUS. Your commitment and dedication have helped us to make OPUS the 'UNIQUE' student organization at the University of Windsor. I hope we can continue with this tradition in the coming years. I am confident that, by working with our members and university partners, we can ensure that OPUS remains the best organization on campus by providing services and advocacy to meet and exceed the needs of the membership.

I am hoping part time students will be more active and involved in OPUS activities this upcoming year. 'Working together works'. Get connected with OPUS!

Maryan Amalow
Executive Director
Organization of Part-Time University Students

A Message from the Health Plan Administrator



Dear Members,

I'd like to welcome all part-time students to the University of Windsor and to the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS). As the OPUS Health Plan Administrator, I manage the operations for the OPUS drug and dental plan including the handling of all student inquiries regarding the plan and ensuring that each issue is dealt with appropriately.

The OPUS Drug and Dental Plan is now providing its 6th year of service to part-time undergraduate students for the 2012-13 benefit years. We have seen a greater volume of students becoming more aware of OPUS because of the growth of the OPUS Drug and Dental Plan along with the other services that we provide for our students. OPUS can only be as effective as the input it receives from its members. We believe that part-time undergraduate students have different needs from those of the student bodies on campus. In addition, as a fellow Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) member and as a student government that represents part-time undergraduate students at the University of Windsor, our first and primary commitment is to the OPUS membership.

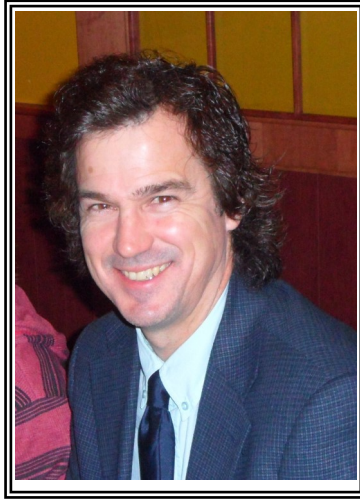
The benefits plan provided by OPUS is based on a pay direct financial model once the student has been officially active through the insurance carrier, which is Green Shield. The pay direct feature benefits members who require and utilize the plan because they are not required to pay up front for a drug or dental claim in full and get reimbursed later. For example, for dental services, students are only required to pay the difference.

For students who wish to OPT-OUT of the OPUS Drug and Dental Plan, they must have existing comparable coverage and complete an OPT-OUT form online or in the OPUS office during the OPT-OUT period. Part-time students can also purchase family benefits for their spouse and/or dependent children. Distance Education, Co-op and Senior must OPT-IN to access this plan as they do not get charged through their student account. The primary benefits carrier for the OPUS Drug and Dental claims is Green Shield Canada. Detailed information regarding the plan can be found on the OPUS (<http://www.uwindsor.ca/opus>) or Green Shield Student Centre (<http://greenshield.ca/sites/student/en/Pages/default.aspx>) websites or students can pick up information in-office.

Furthermore, we are pleased to inform that all part-time distance education students within the OPUS organization were reinstated as OPUS Members, which in turn will allow us to advocate on their behalf, provide OPUS services, and provide the OPUS Drug and Dental Plan as an opt-in option effective Fall 2011. We also look forward to adding more benefits this year, as some of our members have requested.

Sincerely,
Steve Jancev

A Message from the Vice President



Welcome OPUS members and congratulations on the decision to continue your educational journey. My name is Anthony Meloche; I have been a part time University of Windsor student since the summer of 2003. As a father, full time employee and part-time student I have an understanding of the unique challenges students face in earning a degree on a part-time basis. We share many of the same concerns as full time students such as raising tuition costs and the quality of education and services. There are many demands part-time students face that are different then encountered by full time students. Our personal, vocational and university experiences present us with unique challenges. OPUS is your voice in advocating for you the part-time student.

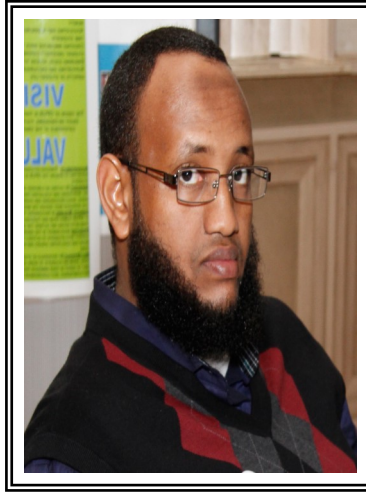
OPUS is always advocating for part-time students to increase pathways for learning and degree achievement by offering more night time courses, on-line courses and weekend courses. Students want to learn and earn a degree and fit it in to their working and personal lives. Other universities offer many more on-line courses and even degree programs on-line. These initiatives and investments sound encouraging and position the University of Windsor to provide long desired flexibility in achieving part-time academic goals. To learn more about the initiatives and what the Office of Open Learning is doing refer to their website www.uwindsor.ca/openlearning.

As your Vice President, I look forward to the challenges and opportunities to advocate for you. Let me know what you feel would engage you and make your university experience more meaningful and successful.

Good luck in your pursuit of your personal and professional goals

Anthony Meloche

A Message from the Treasurer



My name is Hussein Ahmed and I am a member of OPUS (Organization of Part time University Students) students advocating on other students. I am currently holding the position of treasurer since last May, but also served at Opus as a Director At Large for one and half year. However, I represent Opus for three committees; I sit on the senate that makes the academic decisions for the university along with the UCAPT and financial subcommittee. In addition, I also sometimes participate in the PMB meetings on behalf of president and vice president. In fact, in fulfilling these commitments I raise issues that concern our part time university students in all these committees. Not only that, but I also do participate other activities that concern our part time students. Opus exists to act and advocate on behalf of our part-time students in every matter and issue that concern them. One of our projected goals is to promote equality access to academic learning, professionalism as well as lifelong learning opportunities.

Good luck to all our students in the New Year, and wish you a very successful year.

Hussein Ahmed
Opus Treasurer

A Message from the Director at Large



My Co-Part-timer's,

A number of events have complicated our lives over these past months of the school year 2013-'14. I shall deal with two:

1)The unavoidable natural disaster - The Polar Vortex, which branded this Winter as the Winter of Discontent, by the Canadian National Newspaper Globe and Mail. To me, it seized my mind's eyes and senses ever since it's very beginning on the last week of November.

During this winter, I slide half of my body under my car while rushing to adjust my drivers seat, preparing to come to class. My physical self resisted horrendous bone damages and skin bruises. The good Lord was by my side as my shield. I coined a name for **this**: OPUS (o-o-ps! The North Pole) Grand Snow Falls.

Oh Yes! Enjoy with me the 'Snow arrangement', that Nature has mounted right by my front door, to calm and heal my hurting endurance for Grand Snowfalls.

2)On a lighter note, the Meet and Greet event came to pass. As students enjoyed socializing, Dr.Smith and his personnel asked questions which focused on services from the Student Office—a kind of evaluation survey....my focus was, and is—students felt NEEDS for services and support on issues that they may not express. They are encouraged to: 'ask and you shall be given'... a **biblical passage**. Indeed, there are concerns revealed.

Resultantly, an action plan is being prepared. I am contemplating on starting a group by the name of U-win Care Team (UCT). This group would serve and support all students. If interested in joining my cause please contact me through the OPUS office.

Another Meet and Greet session is scheduled for March, stay tuned!

Let me share a saying that I try to live by: 'The joy in caring is LOVE'.

Sincerely,
Bernarda Camello-Doctor

A Message from the Director at Large



Colleagues;

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Erin and I am returning to the OPUS Board after a two year absence. I had sat previously on the board for 3 years and have been a part-time student for almost 10 years.

One of the most important roles I believe OPUS has to play at this University is that of advocacy. Part-time students and their views are numerically vastly outnumbered by the majority of undergraduate student concerns. That being said, it is my belief that the numerical inferiority of part-time student membership should not compromise the importance and value of having our view as part-time students heard by the larger university community. Part-time education comes with a specialized set of difficulties not readily apparent to many full-time undergraduate students, such as: limited time available to attend lectures and seek support on campus, external obligations in addition to working such as care of children or elders, and being generally older and more mature as students which can create unique social barriers.

The University of Windsor needs to create more spaces for flexible or blended learning so that classes can be more easily fit into complex schedules. The value of adapting to the needs of part-time students actually benefits the institution as a whole as many full-time undergraduates would benefit from flexible course scheduling and blended learning models such as online courses. Many students, both part-time and full-time still face accessibility barriers which a diversified learning model would help to address.

While I have always strived to be an advocate for the rights of all students, I place special emphasis on the part-time student view lest it go unheard over the multitude of other voices. As one of your Senate representatives I ensure that you have a voice when policy is made. As a member of the Judicial Panel I strive to ensure that all students are given a fair and judicious hearing, such that their rights are conserved.

I also place special emphasis on the issues faced by disabled students, many of whom are part-time for many reasons. As a student with a disability and one who works in private sector as an advocate for persons with disabilities, I am in a unique position to bring these viewpoints to light. Apart from keeping disabled students in the minds of policy makers I, with the support of my fellow board members, also help these students with advocacy at a personal level. All members of the OPUS board are helpful in co-ordinating advocacy for individual student concerns, with various board members lending their expertise to best fit the student's need: accessibility concerns are my area of expertise and I am happy to help you with any concerns you may have.

In closing I wish you all a successful year at the University of Windsor and invite you to become involved with OPUS. Let us know your concerns. Share your ideas with us. In this way we can all work together to create and maintain a positive education environment that supports the needs of all of its learners.

-Erin Plum

A Message from the Director at Large



Welcome fellow students,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the University of Windsor and OPUS 2013/2014 semester year! My name is Chris Baillargeon and I am your Student Advocacy Representative for OPUS. I have been with OPUS for the previous 8 years, currently as Director-at-Large. Your adventure will be challenging at times, but rewarding on the road ahead to meet your future goals of success. Be engaged, be inspired and get connected to campus events, clubs and societies. By being a part of your University of Windsor experience will serve you well in all your future endeavors. I have made the right choice and so have you!

As a part of OPUS, I advocate on your behalf to address your various concerns on committees throughout the university community-at-large. You are our voice on all matters brought forward and any change is a direct result of your input, our advocacy and ever present belief of change now and in the future for a brighter tomorrow. I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to represent you and collectively we can make the overall commitment for change to happen as anything is possible. Some of these issues include movement on tuition fees, on-line distance course availability, and quality student life experience on campus to name a few.

You have embarked on another year, another semester and another adventure to take you further on your journey towards completing your future prospective goals. This journey will lead you to future success. As you move one day forward, compounded steadily over time, for an extended period of time will generate the results you wish to gain. By maintaining focus, attention to detail, enjoying your time and having fun will inevitably help you in every way. The time will pass quickly, so take the time to enjoy life as these memories and many others will remain with you for the rest of your life!

Sincerely,
Chris Baillargeon

A Message from the Organizer of the Student Town Hall



In the Fall Semester, the University of Windsor Students' Alliance (UWSA) held a town hall meeting open to all full-time, part-time, and graduate students in the CAW Student Centre Commons area. The town hall consisted of guest speakers from the UWSA, OPUS and GSS. The town hall introduced and informed students on the issues affecting our campus like the rise of tuition fees, Board of Governors misrepresentation, the importance of implementing a fall reading week, promoting a bottled water free campus, challenging many forms of discrimination and racism and the 'No Means No' campaign. Students were able to be informed about these various campaigns, which were formed by Canadian Federation Students (CFS). During this Town Hall, these campaigns were discussed in detail, followed by the chance to let students join discussions on each campaign. The discussions focused on student feedback on the various campaigns, and it also let students become a part of the campaigns that interested them the most.

The purpose for the town hall was to educate and outreach to UWINDSOR students on the various issues our campus faces. These campaigns will not end and will continue to be in existence. When students were given the chance to discuss the campaigns with the student leaders, students had the choice to give their names and email addresses to form a committee. Committee meetings have begun, and will continue this semester and for the years to come.

It is important that UWINDSOR students to get involved with their student government functions, such as these campaigns, and stay connected to their respective student unions. The student union leaders appreciate any feedback from students, and are always looking for student input. If students have any questions, or are interested in joining a campaign, please contact UWSA, OPUS & GSS.

Farah El-Hajj
UWSA Senate Representative

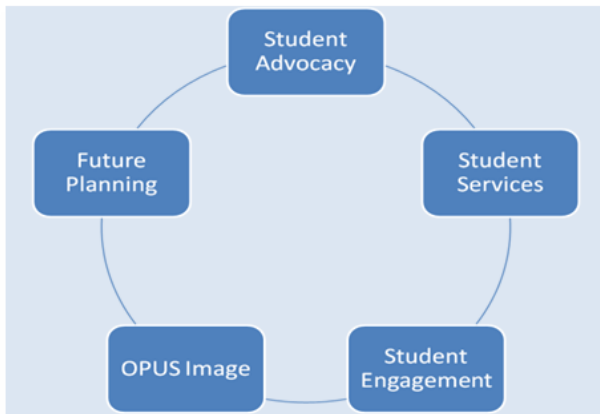
OPUS Strategic Plan 2012-2015

The Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS) is a student group at the University of Windsor made up of volunteer part-time students who provide services and advocate on behalf of part-time students.

OPUS has a long history on campus and was established in 1969 to provide a means for part-time students to have their voices heard on campus.

OPUS has had a strong and participative presence on campus. OPUS feels this Strategic Plan will continue to build on the foundation that has been laid.

The Strategic Plans Five Pillars guide OPUS's Strategic Direction and include; Student Advocacy, Student Services, Student Engagement, OPUS Image, and Future Planning. This plan outlines a disciplined approach to support the ongoing transformation and growth of OPUS, assisting to provide a rewarding and engaging student experience at the University of Windsor.



The Strategic Plan aligns well and is guided by the OPUS vision and mission.

OPUS Vision

The vision of OPUS is that all part-time students enjoy an engaging, fulfilling and rewarding experience at the University of Windsor.

OPUS Mission

OPUS is a dynamic organization that advocates and promotes a rewarding University of Windsor experience for part-time students

The Goals of the Strategic Plan Five Pillars

Student Advocacy

To be a leader and resource for part-time students advocating for their interests at the University of Windsor, provincially, and nationally.

Student Services

To provide meaningful and value added services to part-time students. Services that provide a collective and/or an individual benefit to enhance the part-time student university experience.

Student Engagement

Be a leader in providing opportunities for part-time students to engage with each other. Be an agent in promoting and advocating for best practices for student engagement in the learning environment and on campus.

OPUS Image

Be admired by part-time students and the University of Windsor community as a leader and a value added service. Be seen by the university community as a valued contributor to the engagement, success and enjoyment in the educational life of part-time students and the entire university community.

Future Planning

Each Strategic Pillar will have activities, initiatives, and deliverables attached to them to achieve our goals from August 2012 to August 2015

Learn More....

Please review our website www.uwindsor.ca/opus for the complete OPUS 2012-2015 Strategic Plan and the many exciting events, activities and services OPUS has to offer.

Drug and Dental Plan



DRUG & DENTAL PLAN BENEFITS SUMMARY

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION INCLUDING PLAN BOOKLET, ID CARD & MORE VISIT:

<http://greenshield.ca/studentcentre>

Benefit Period: September 1 or January 1 - August 31

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetic testing agents, needles/syringes • All other prescription drugs 	80% per prescription or refill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 per benefit year, combined with blood glucose monitors and lancets, limited to the overall Prescription Drugs Maximum • \$2,000 per person per benefit year
MEDICAL ITEMS AND SERVICES		Maximum plan pays:
Optometric Eye Exams		Once every 2 years, up to a maximum of \$80, beginning on date of first paid claim
Blood glucose monitors and lancets		\$200 per person per benefit year, combined with diabetic testing agents, needles/syringes
Braces and Crutches*		\$500 per person per benefit year
Prosthesis*		\$1,500 per benefit year
Other items and services listed below*		Reasonable and customary charges
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		Maximum plan pays:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech Therapist • Podiatrist 		\$15 per visit up to a maximum of 20 visits per practitioner, per benefit year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Massage Therapist (medical referral required) • Homeopath • Acupuncturist • Naturopath 		\$15 per visit up to a maximum of 20 visits for all practitioners combined, per benefit year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiropractor • Physiotherapist 		\$15 per visit up to a maximum of 20 visits for all practitioners combined, per benefit year
DENTAL		Maximum plan pays:
Basic & Comprehensive Basic Services		60% of eligible charges, up to a maximum of \$500 per covered person per benefit year

TRAVEL BENEFIT SUMMARY

Policy #:28556323

Administrator: **etfs**

Underwriter: Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada

Coverage Maximum: \$5,000,000 per coverage period per insured person

Coverage Period: 60 days per trip

OPUS Reception 2013

This 2013 Reception was held on October 22nd 2013. It was the 1st time that a part-time undergraduate student had the opportunity to win the free tuition bursary. Special thanks to the Alumni Association for their contributions. The event also included the OPUS survey tablet prize presentation and a delicious free dinner.



Awards Banquet 2013

The Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS) hosts its Annual Awards Banquet during the month of March to recognize the achievements of faculty, staff and part-time students over the past year.

In addition to part-time undergraduate students, we also invite faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University of Windsor.

The event usually includes a dinner after the awards are presented. The 2013 awards dinner took place at the Caboto Club and it was the 21st annual banquet. The event was also accompanied with live performances and musical entertainment.

Last year, over 150 guests including students, staff, alumni and faculty members were in attendance during last year's banquet. Guests also received event agendas along with the latest copy of the OPUS annual newsletter and other OPUS material.



OPUS Fall Orientation

The University of Windsor offers several orientation programs throughout the year. By attending these programs, new part-time students are introduced to the university's campus and student services. Students are also provided with the opportunity to meet faculty, staff, opus members, and other incoming students. The goal of all of our orientation programs is to prepare you for a successful university experience!

The circumstances under which you are starting university will determine the orientation programs that are right for you. In many situations, you will benefit from attending more than one orientation program as the focus of the information varies.



Appreciation Week 2013



OPUS Social 2013

The OPUS social was held in the Ambassador Auditorium in the CAW Student Centre and featured a keynote speaker, Dave Bussiere, Assistant Vice-President - Records & Admissions, who provided information to students on course offerings from the University. One part-time student won the free tuition prize, valued at \$1,500, from the Organization of Part-time University Students!



OPUS & Meal Exchange Windsor Trick or Eat Charity

On Halloween student volunteers went door to door and collected 1,000 pounds of canned goods during the Trick or Eat food drive. These canned goods were used to replenish food banks at Hiatus House and the Well-come Centre of Windsor. This event happens once every year and is a huge benefit to the community. Don't miss out on next year's event!



OPUS Potluck 2013

On November 19th, the OPUS office opened its doors to part time students for their annual pot luck luncheon. OPUS staff and associates mingled with students over a wide variety of foods.

Every year, near the end of the fall semester, OPUS organizes this feast for all part time students to take some time out of their day and enjoy a friendly atmosphere. From time to time, we all come together to eat, drink, and have fun.

Our menu included a variety of ethnically diverse foods including Somali, Macedonian, Sudanese, Egyptian, Italian, and Pakistani dishes. OPUS staff and board members contributed to their part of the feast and were present to welcome students and spread the word about our organization.



University of Windsor Student Town Hall

On November 6th 2013, the UWSA hosted the Student Town Hall event. This event allowed students to voice their concerns, join campaigns/events, and gave them an opportunity to meet their union representatives.



Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2013



Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) OGM Conference January 2014

The Canadian Student Federation was formed in 1981 to provide students with an effective and united voice, provincially and nationally. OPUS attended the January 2014 CFS conference in Toronto to discuss ways to eliminate increases in tuition fees, fair and equitable education, the drop tuition fees campaign, and sat on a sub-committee that outlined the services offered by CFS (including Student Saver discounts, handbook, orientation material, etc).



Celebration of Nations 2014

The Celebration of Nations festival is a celebration of the rich cultural diversity that exists within our campus community and Windsor-Essex County. It is an opportunity to promote awareness of cultural differences, to learn about other cultures, and to encourage everyone to celebrate their own heritage. The Celebration features a variety of performances, demonstrations and displays of food, dance, dress, and music.



Recap of 2013-14





Open Learning at the University of Windsor Good News.

At a February 4, 2010 OPUS Student Meeting students got more than just great wings and free pizza they learned that learning opportunities and pathways to learning are evolving at the University of Windsor. Guest speaker Nick Baker, Acting Director Office of Open Learning advised that there are a number of initiatives that are underway including the increasing of technology, learning tools, and on-line course offerings for students.

Students learned that the Office of Open learning is a new unit reporting to the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning. This office has the responsibility for establishing, coordinating, and promoting in a systematic way, the development of on-line, hybrid distance, and continuing education at the University.

Through this office a large amount of government funding has been secured. A total of 45 million dollars was shared across college and universities and the University of Windsor obtained 1.32 million dollars of funding across 6 projects which includes some partnerships with other universities.

What this means for students and the University is:

- Mainstreaming Distance Education/Online/Flexible learning
- Building capacity in faculty, enabling new practices
- Sustainable offerings and practices
- Increasing UWindsor quality in Distance Education & blended offerings in comparison to Ontario universities
- Providing more flexible options for all UWindsor students
- University of Windsor Education Technology is improving and you can be on the look out for enhancements in:
- CLEW, LMS Review, Collaborate, Google Apps, uView, ePortfolio, Remote exam proctoring, Echo360, Student Engagement Platform, and Lecture Tools

OPUS is always advocating for part-time students to increase pathways for learning and degree achievement by offering more night time courses, on-line courses and weekend courses. Students want to learn and earn a degree and fit it in to their working and personal lives. Other universities offer many more on-line courses and even degree programs on-line. These initiatives and investments sound encouraging and position the University of Windsor to provide long desired flexibility in achieving part-time academic goals. To learn more about the initiatives and what the Office of Open Learning is doing refer to their website www.uwindsor.ca/openlearning.

Anthony Meloche
OPUS Vice President

Improvements to Uwindsor

An accessible computer station has been placed within CAW commons to accommodate those with disabilities. This computer station will be convenient due to its 1st floor location and easy access. Although it is mainly for disability students, the computer will be free for everyone to use when idle. This project is brought to you by a joint effort between OPUS, UWSA, and the University of Windsor.



The 1st of 3 water bottle refill stations has been installed in the CAW Centre basement, 2 more refill stations coming soon! The students of OPUS and the UWSA at University of Windsor working together. Help us make campus more environmentally friendly, one step at a time!

OPUS provides a variety of events for all members, students, faculty, and staff. These events always include free food, drinks, and entertainment. They also provide the opportunity for members and students to become involved and be aware of the many services and benefits there are here within the University of Windsor. Some of these benefits include meeting new people, becoming better informed about issues that affect you on campus, letting your voice be heard, and becoming part of a support system.

Why not join in the fun?!

Come by OPUS and meet our team, enjoy our lounge/kitchen area, and create new friendships!

Monetary Relief

The Organization of Part-time University Students provides generous monetary awards for part-time students. Our students have diverse needs and strengths, and ultimately deserve the opportunity to receive financial relief throughout their educational journey. We provide 18 opportunities for students to win a variety of awards and scholarships. The newest addition to our awards list includes the Second Chance Award. This unique award is given to a student that is currently struggling academically with a GPA of 5.0 or under and is willing to continue to work towards their education.

To apply to any award, drop by the office and request an application. You can also apply on-line by logging into your Student Portal (myUWindsor), clicking on "Financial Matters" then "Awards" and complete the awards search.



Second Chance Scholarship



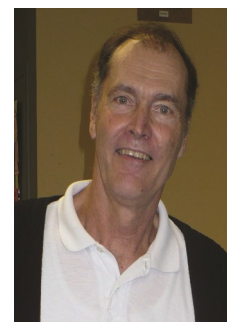
This past year has been memorable for me. All efforts to initiate a new perspective on supporting students through the philosophy of a second chance scholarship have finally come to fruition. For the next five years, any OPUS students who did not make the minimum academic grade requirements of a C+ (G.P.A.) for whatever reason, can apply for this scholarship and the annual recipient will have \$750 of his/her educational costs reimbursed without condition. This is both an incentive for those who have never yet participated in the university experience to test their abilities and participate in the post-educational process with less financial risk, as well as offering a second chance for current students whose marks temporarily force them to consider quitting due to financial issues.

This scholarship supports the community by promoting the opportunity for post secondary education for those willing to try their best and have at least part of the cost reimbursed should unforeseen events undermine their efforts. It also enhances the humanitarian aspect of the University as having a deep concern for unexpected life experiences and hardships that some students encounter. Finally, the scholarship, administered by OPUS, demonstrates student advocacy for part time students thereby encouraging a strong student/OPUS/ university bond.

I am sending you this note to personally express my thanks for your perseverance in getting the right people involved in debate and explanation while never giving up on advocating for this brand new scholarship that will help a never before considered category of students.

Respectfully;

K. Ternoey/ founder of the V.E.K. Ternoey second chance scholarship.



OPUS Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award has been initiated in 2007 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) to recognize and applaud the efforts of OPUS members and executives who selflessly assist part-time students in their efforts to achieve academic excellence. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes efforts of individuals that have contributed over a number of years to keep the Organization running at full steam and advocating for part-time student issues at the University of Windsor.

Friend of Students' Award

This award was initiated in 2005 to give particular recognition, thanks, and encouragement to those who have not only sought out and solicited the participation of students, but have reinforced their value as respected participants in a team of council members seeking to make change for the good at the University of Windsor. Many changes have taken place at the University of Windsor - changes for the good of all students. Students and professors alike have been working throughout the years on behalf of students; these improvements have touched many areas. Whether it is in facilitating the full access of the physical environment here at the University or in the learning experience itself, giving effective feed-back to professors, or in ensuring capable visionaries in position of leadership

Faculty Awards

This annual award was initiated in 1992 to recognize and applaud "The efforts of University of Windsor faculty members who unselfishly assist part-time students in their efforts to achieve academic excellence." The 2002 Teaching and Learning Initiative at the University not only highlighted the importance of faculty recognition, but also recognized OPUS as a leader in acknowledging faculty for their support of student needs, desires, and aspirations. In keeping with this tradition, commencing 2003, a maximum of three faculty members may receive recognition for their teaching accomplishments. The range of recognized teaching accomplishment may include, but are not limited to, effectiveness in large-class teaching, effective implementation of teaching and learning innovations, or development of materials for flexible learning and delivery.

Support Staff Awards

These annual awards were initiated in 2002 to acknowledge the important contributions of staff in supporting teaching and learning at the University of Windsor. Outstanding support staff are all too often taken for granted, while few receive public acknowledgement. Their impact may be felt as, but not limited to, resource persons attending committee meetings, individuals maintaining a comfortable environment for students, faculty and staff providing timely advice or assistance with a professional demeanor, or persons assisting students with dietary needs.

Volunteer of the Year Award

This award has been initiated in 2007 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) to recognize and applaud the efforts and dedication of OPUS volunteers who selflessly assist OPUS in organizing events and fulfilling its mandate year after year. The OPUS Volunteer of the Year award recognizes outstanding volunteers that have brought enthusiasm and a renewed spirit of energy at OPUS events.

Disability Campus Community Recognition Award

This annual award was established in 2002 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students to recognize a University of Windsor faculty or staff member who has in the previous year demonstrated guidance and leadership in advancing accommodations and accessibility for students at the University of Windsor. The nominee either demonstrated innovative and responsive accommodations and/or provided support for a student with a disability. Nominations may be made by anyone associated with the University of Windsor campus community

Student With Disability Achievement Award

Value of \$500, this award is awarded annually towards tuition remission to a current part-time undergraduate student with a disability, as defined by the University of Windsor. The successful applicant must have completed a minimum of five (5) course credits at the University of Windsor at the time of nomination and have demonstrated leadership abilities within the University community by raising awareness and promoting accessibility.

Teacher of the Year Award

This annual award has been initiated in 2006 to recognize those professors at the University of Windsor who demonstrate outstanding dedication to part-time students, helping them achieve academic excellence and greater learning. The Professors nominated for OPUS Awards will be considered based on the letter submitted by the students, the OPUS Evaluation, and the Teacher Evaluation and ratings from the University of Windsor. All nomination forms are to be filled out and returned to Maryan Amalow in the OPUS office. Forms are available online or can be picked up in the OPUS office.

Appreciation Award

This award has been initiated in 2003 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) to recognize and applaud the efforts and dedication of OPUS Board of Director, Employee and Work Study who selflessly assist OPUS in contributing and fulfilling its mandate year after year. The OPUS Appreciation award recognizes outstanding members that have brought enthusiasm and a renewed spirit of energy at OPUS.

Alumni Association First Year Part-Time Undergraduate Student Award

Value of \$500, this award is awarded annually toward tuition remission, to a registered part-time student in their first year of study in any program at the University of Windsor. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS awards.

Alumni Association Academic Achievement Award

Value of \$500, this award is awarded annually toward tuition remission only to a registered part-time student who has a minimum cumulative GPA of 11.0. Must have successfully completed a minimum of 5 courses on a part-time basis as well as completing at least 30% of program at the University of Windsor. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS awards.

OPUS Scholarships

OPUS Academic Achievement Award

Value of \$500, this award is awarded annually toward tuition remission only to a registered part-time student who has a minimum cumulative GPA of 11.0. The successful applicant must have successfully completed a minimum of five courses on a part-time basis as well as completed at least 30% of their program at the University of Windsor. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS awards. To apply for this award, please go to the awards webpage at www.uwindsor.ca/opus.

Dr. Kathleen McCrone Award

A single tuition remission award of \$500 is awarded annually to a part-time student who has the highest cumulative average and who is enrolled in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The one-time only recipient must be in Year 2 of studies with 80% of all courses completed as a part-time student while in attendance at the University of Windsor. This award was established in 2002 by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) in recognition of Dr. Kathleen McCrone's dedicated service to the promotion of academic excellence and to the University of Windsor where she served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for 12 years.

Mary C. Schisler Award in Dramatic Art

Value of \$500, this award is awarded annually towards tuition remission by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) to a student enrolled in the School of Dramatic Art. Based on academic merit, preference will be given to a part-time student with a minimum cumulative average of 10.5. OPUS established this award in 2002 in recognition of Mary Schisler who, while President of the OPUS Board of Directors, supported the Arts and Humanities by establishing the "Alumni Evening with University Players."

Wayne Girard Leadership Memorial Award

Value of \$750, this award is applied towards tuition remission. Awarded annually by the Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS). Established in 2009 in memory of Wayne Girard, who, while serving as the Treasurer of the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS), exhibited the values and interests of all part-time students. Preference will be given to a part-time student who values physical fitness and has provided volunteer services to the University of Windsor and/or the Windsor-Essex County Community. The recipient must be registered as a part-time student in any field of study program at the University of Windsor. The successful applicant must have successfully completed a minimum of ten courses on a part-time basis at the University of Windsor. This award may not be combined with any other OPUS awards.

Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS) Bursaries

Value of \$500 each. Six bursaries applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually by OPUS. The number of bursaries varies from year to year, based on demand and financial resources as determined by the OPUS Board of Directors. Eligible applicants must be registered as part-time undergraduate students, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office. Candidates must be Canadian citizens/Permanent Residents residing in Ontario.

Alumni Association Part-Time Undergraduate Student Bursary

Value of \$750 each. Two bursaries applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually by University of Windsor Alumni Association. Eligible applicants must be registered as part-time undergraduate students, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office. Candidates must be Canadian citizens/Permanent Residents residing in Ontario.

Part-time Undergraduate International Student Bursaries

Value of \$500 each. Two bursaries applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually by the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS). The number of bursaries varies from year to year, based on demand and financial resources as determined by the OPUS Board of Directors. Eligible applicants must be registered as part-time undergraduate international students, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office.

Part-Time Undergraduate Distance Education Student Bursary (OPUS)

Value of \$500, one bursary applied to tuition remission for a single undergraduate course are offered annually by the Organization of Part-time University Students (OPUS). The number of bursaries varies from year to year, based on demand and financial resources as determined by the OPUS Board of Directors. Eligible applicants must be registered as part-time undergraduate distance education students, and meet strict financial and academic standards as determined by the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office.

Academic "Second Chance" Scholarship

Value of \$750. Applicants must have been registered in at least one undergraduate course at the University, and must have achieved a GPA of less than 5.0 in any one or more of the three annual semesters. Applicants must submit with the application, a short essay/paragraph, of about 100 words, on the theme of "Reason(s) not to give up on a University education."



Who are we?

The Organization of Part-Time University Students (OPUS) is the student body at the University of Windsor, which represents the part-time undergraduate students. A part-time student is defined as anyone registered in 3 or less courses, during the Fall or Winter semesters. OPUS is led by a volunteer Executive Board of Directors who are all part-time students. The Executive, along with the volunteer Class Representatives, continue the OPUS Assembly of Representatives, which meet once a month during the regular school year.

What do we do?

The primary goal of OPUS is to ensure equal opportunity to quality education for all part-time undergraduate students. The greatest function that OPUS performs is that of advocacy, through its participation in the decision making process of university government. OPUS is concerned with both the academic and social well-being of their students and provides a number of services for them. OPUS offers 10 bursary awards in each of the Fall and Winter semesters, valued at \$500.00 each.

Benefits to you!

**Are you a
part-time
student?**

- Learn you are not alone
- Meet fellow part-time students
- Become better informed about issues that affect you on campus
- Help-part-time voices to be heard
- Become part of a support system that can benefit you and others

What does OPUS have to offer?

- ◆ A chance to be part of the Board of Directors and serve on various committees advocating on behalf of Part-time students
- ◆ A lounge for part-time students to study or meet friends. It also includes a kitchen area, access to the Internet and telephone services
- ◆ Ability to learn about the many issues that affect all students by volunteering as an OPUS associate
- ◆ Several OPUS Awards and Bursaries awarded and Free Tuition Draw each year!
- ◆ Orientation for Part-Time Students, Annual BBQ and great chance to meet new people!
- ◆ Universal Health and Dental benefits for all Part-time students
- ◆ Essential Services including printing, photocopying, and faxing



The OPUS Lounge and Board Room is available for part-time students to study and meet other part-time students during office hours. OPUS would like to welcome all Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Windsor to make use of this facility.

Part-time undergraduate students also have access to the kitchen area. Students can enjoy free coffee, tea or water. There is also a fridge and microwave available for student use, and we are open in the evening, during the Fall and Winter semesters. This is your space; we encourage you to use it.

Every Friday since Fall 2013, around noon, students passing through the Student's Centre can appreciate the savoury aroma of pizza coming in the OPUS office. Thanks to Dr. Kamouni, owner of the Campus Dental Centre, all students and staff at the university can enjoy a nice pizza lunch. Each Friday you can expect to see some new and familiar faces socializing amongst one another. This lunch, is a small yet grand gesture to reinforce community and the unity of alumni, students and facility members here at the university. This is also an opportunity for students associations on campus UWSA, OPUS and GSS to reconnect and talk about student concerns. As an OPUS work study student, I get the chance every Friday, to meet and socialize with different people over this lunch, helping me to build relationships with my peers and making my time here at the university that much more enjoyable.

Natasha Dore
OPUS Work Study Student



AN OVERVIEW OF TUITION FEES IN CANADA

FALL 2012

In the past fifteen years, tuition fees in Canada have grown to become the single largest expense for most university and college students. The dramatic tuition fee increases during this period were the direct result of cuts to public funding for post-secondary education by the federal government and, to a somewhat lesser extent, provincial governments. Public funding currently accounts for an average of approximately 57 percent of university and college operating funding, down from 80 percent just two decades ago. During the same period, tuition fees have grown from 14 percent of operating funding to over 35 percent.¹ This constitutes a rapid re-orientation of Canada's post-secondary education system away from a publicly funded model and towards a privatised, user fee system. Rapidly increasing tuition fees have caused post-secondary education to become unaffordable for many low- and middle-income Canadians.

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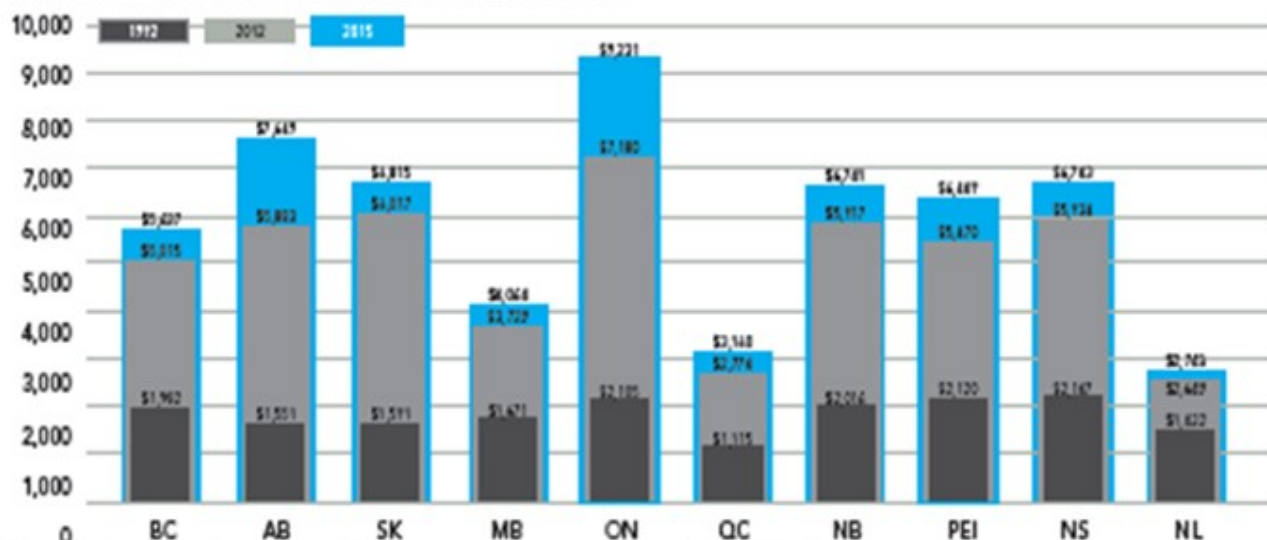
GRADUATE, PROFESSIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Master's, PhD, international students, and students in professional programs have faced the steepest increases in tuition fees. Unlike most undergraduate students,

graduate students are enrolled year-round, and therefore have to pay tuition fees during the summer months. Thus, not only do graduate students pay higher fees, they also pay them for four months more than undergraduate students on the typical fall and winter academic schedule.

The higher fees for graduate and professional students are often justified by arguing that those with advanced degrees earn more during their lifetimes in the workforce. However, the increased earnings of professionals have been notoriously exaggerated by university and college presidents in their campaign for higher fees. Recent research has found that a PhD graduate only nets an average of \$4,000 more per year over a master's

TUITION FEE LEVELS, 1992 TO 2015, IN CURRENT DOLLARS



Note: tuition fees for 2015 based on provincial government policy announcements, and current legislation.



Accountability - Advocacy - Capacity Building - Proactive - Self-Efficacy

OPUS

Organization of Part-Time University Students
CAW Student Center, Room 172
Phone: (519) 253-3000, ext.3603
www.uwindsor.ca/opus

Author Summary

Throughout this year I have had the pleasure of becoming part of the OPUS team. This experience has been extremely pleasurable and has increased my awareness of how many kind and warm hearted people there are, here at the University, and within OPUS. While compiling this newsletter, I had the opportunity to go through the delightful and exciting pictures, statements, and event descriptions. OPUS has much to offer, including multiple social events, advocacy, a safe and relaxing work space, and a positive atmosphere.

-Rebecca Brown

