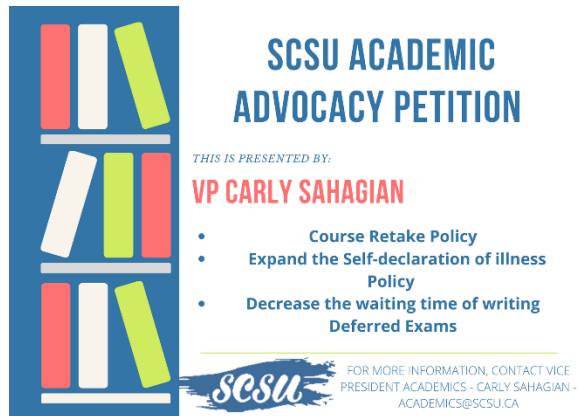


ACADEMIC ADVOCACY AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION Academic Advocacy and accessible education are the largest projects that the Vice President of Academics and University Affairs (VP.AUA), Carly Sahagian has approached this year. In order to shape these initiatives, the VP AUA had several meetings with administration, consultations with students and DSAs, and researching both University and Provincial Policy throughout the year.

SCSU Academic Advocacy Petition



On December, VP. AUA started an academic petition. Sahagian recognizes that the mental health crisis is on the rise and academics play one of the biggest factors on students' well being. Based on conversations with undergraduate students at UTSC, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union brought forward the following recommendations to the University Administration the petition included the following demands

- Course Re-take policy; allows students to repeat a course and replace their first attempt with the second attempt and make it count towards the CGPA
- Expand the Self-declaration of illness policy; currently implemented in Psychology and Biology departments ONLY. This will act as a sick note for term assignments and save you time from visiting family doctors, walk-in-clinics or the Health and Wellness Centre on-campus.
- Decrease the waiting time of writing deferred exams; currently, students wait for a whole semester plus they get restricted on their course load.

For more information about academic advocacy work taken up by your students' union, reach out to Carly, your Vice President Academics and University Affairs at academics@scsu.ca

Both online and physical petition was circulated and more than 1000 signatures were collected.

Victories by Vice President of Academics and University Affairs, Carly Sahagian.

Course Retake policy :

Sahagian has successfully initiated the Course- Retake policy at UTSC!

After many research conducted by VP. AUA and monthly meeting with the Vice Dean of Undergraduate, Prof. Mark Shmculker has introduced this policy to all faculty and chairs in January. This policy got approved by all chairs and faculties and the draft is still undergoing some feedback from faculties, however, soon will be introduced to the UTSC Academics Affairs for approval to be in place for Fall 2020 or fall 20201. For more information, please contact Carly Sahagian, your Vice President Academics and University Affairs academics@scsu.ca

Deferred Exams:

Sahagian has also successfully lobbied for early deferral exam schedule after many meetings with the Dean of the Registrar office, Curtis Cole. The registrar office has introduced the seasonal dates for information on the Academic Affairs Committee on Jan 15, 2020, which highlights the deferred exam time. Please check this [document](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/governance-bodies/utsc-academic-affairs-committee/agenda-packages/jan-15-2020) for more information. <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/governance-bodies/utsc-academic-affairs-committee/agenda-packages/jan-15-2020> .For more information, please contact Carly Sahagian, your Vice President Academics and University Affairs academics@scsu.ca

Self Declaration of Illness:



Sahagian has met with the Chair of Historical cultural studies as well as Arts, Culture and Media with the lead of their prospective DSA presidents. Both of the departments have shown their approval of the policy and have looked into ways of implementing this policy in their perspective departments.

Sahagian has also met with the management department with the lead of their DSA, (Managements and Economics Students' Association (MESA). The department has also supported this policy and organized a town hall on March 11 to hear feedback from students and VP AUA. has received an invitation to talk about the policy further.

For more information, please contact Carly Sahagian, your Vice President Academics and University Affairs academics@scsu.ca

Study Spaces: during the fall and winter exams periods

STRUGGLING TO FIND STUDY SPACE ON CAMPUS?

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING SPACES –

AA 207, AA 208, AC 202, AC 204, BY 355, HW 308, IC 379, IC 378, MW 762, MW 264

THE LIBRARY

DECEMBER 3RD - 20TH
OPEN 24/7

CLASSROOMS & OTHER SPACES

DECEMBER 4TH - 6TH
10 AM - 10 PM

DECEMBER 7TH - 20TH
10 AM - 10 PM

PLEASE NOTE: THE UNIVERSITY CLOSSES AT 6 PM ON DECEMBER 20*

NEW STUDY SPACES IN THE STUDENT CENTRE!

SL219, SL222 AND ALUMNI LOUNGE
SL 283 FROM 10 AM TO 10 PM

TV LOUNGE OPEN 24/7
AND MANY STUDY SPACES IN THE STUDENT CENTRE.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE (ARCI) STUDY CABRELS
8 ADEN WING 4TH FLOOR
SOCIAL SCIENCE (MW) BUILDING ATRIUM
JINEWY HIGHLAND HALL OPEN STUDY SPACE
HUMANITIES WING (HW) CABRELS
SCIENCE WING (SW) STUDY CABRELS
INSTRUCTIONAL CENTRE (IC) STUDY ROOMS AND ATRIUM
MEETING PLACE
MARKETPLACE SEATING AREA (HW 308)
79ASC RM 2060

QUIET STUDY SPACES AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY AND HIGHLAND HALL

DOWNLOAD SPACEPLUS
URS'S STUDY SPACE APP

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CARLY SAHAGIAN - ACADEMICS@SCSU.CA
DOWNLOAD THE NEW STUDY SPACE APP - SPACEPLUS
SPACEPLUS CAN BE FOUND ON BOTH THE APP STORE AND PLAY STORE

Sahagian has tackled the lack of study spaces by opening up the student centre rooms on the second floor, for study space on campus and this had a great outcome! Sahagian mentioned that it was great to see many students using the space for studying and is glad that she was able to provide a quick tangible solution for the lack of study spaces on campus. However, the issue cannot be resolved by having temporary study spaces as Sahagian kept advocating and lobbying the university to add more study spaces in the upcoming new UTSC buildings. Study spaces in the student centre will be opened during winter exams as well. For more information, please contact Carly Sahagian, your Vice President Academics and University Affairs academics@scsu.ca

Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS): New Thinking; Students leading



Sahagian has chaired many meetings with the URS committee and organized a very successful Undergraduate Research Symposium. The 4th annual symposium highlighted our undergraduate community's contributions to research and scholarship and offered a platform for undergraduates to showcase their work.

From the climate crisis to the introduction of electronic currencies to the rise of populism, life as we know it will be very different for the generations ahead of us. Amidst these changes, we can be sure that students and young people will be at the forefront of this change - shaping our new world. This year our theme aimed to capture the spirit of this change and gain a glimpse into the way life may be.

Topics of research included: Uyghur Muslim's Genocide Unveiled, LGBTQ Online Communities and Activism in China, Colonial Mentality as Self-Subordination, How Surveillance and audience commodity shape the political and economical structure of Facebook and Google and many more!

The keynote speaker this year was Dr Georgette Zinaty, former UTCS's Development and Alumni Relations office executive director. Moreover, The Symposium was sponsored by the office of the Vice-Principal Research at UTSC for the first time ever!

This year for the first time all students got recognized by Uof T. Students' participation got recognized on their Co-Curricular Record and five best presenters were rewarded up to 500\$. Raffles and dinner were provided as well. For more information, please contact Carly Sahagian, your Vice President Academics and University Affairs academics@scsu.ca

Petitions and Appeals Throughout winter

Sahagian has supported multiple students through the academic petitions and appeals processes as well as in academic concerns. This assistance comes in many forms such as advice for the best course of action, check-ins throughout the petitions/appeals process, and assisting in composing letters.

EVENTS



Annual Leadership Reception

Sahagian attended the annual Student Leaders Reception, hosted by the Office of Student Affairs & Services to celebrate students holding leadership roles in student unions, student societies and recognized campus groups at U of T Scarborough. The reception is an opportunity to recognize the incredible impact these student leaders have on the student experience and offer thanks for their contribution to this campus.

With over 200 student-led clubs and counting covering a range of interests from sports to social activism and 16 departmental student associations representing academic departments, the energetic student leaders on this vibrant campus encourage students to make the most of their student experience outside the classroom.

VP. AUA, Carly Sahagian has also received the University of Toronto Leadership Award 2020 previously known as Gordon Cressy for her accomplishments.





Collaborations with MESA

Sahagian has collaborated with MESA, the biggest DSA in hosting the Case Competition series. This case competition challenge has offered a grand prize of 1000\$ to the winning team alongside mentorship opportunities. Furthermore, VP. AUA has collaborated to host MESA's, Annual Gala. For more information, please contact Carly Sahagian, your Vice President Academics and University Affairs academics@scsu.ca



Collaboration with Psychological Health Society

Sahagian has collaborated with Psychological Health Society is hosting a coding session with MATLAB. The session included beginner level skills that are easily transferable to common computer languages such as R, Python, and Matlab. Sample code was taught in Matlab and students had the opportunity to conduct a mock experiment. Lastly, students who completed the project have earned a certificate! The funding of the event was collected for Mental health initiatives on campus. For more information, please contact Carly Sahagian, your Vice President Academics and University Affairs academics@scsu.ca

