

# RYAN MALABANAN

## 2024/25 USC SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

My main priorities as a USC Councillor can be simplified as follows:

- Magnify the **visibility of the USC's work** and its impact on student experience (i.e., remove the bubble around USC and engage more students).
  - Hold one-on-one Councillor office hours weekly.
  - Collaborate with Residents' Councils to introduce first-year students with USC's work.
- Emphasize/increase awareness about **available student resources** (e.g., mental health and counselling supports).
  - Promote readily available resources to students through social media advertisements.
- Increase programming for often **under-supported students** (e.g., BIPOC, 2SLGTBQIA+, first-generation).
  - Collaborate with student groups to host workshop sessions (e.g., work with business clubs to increase personal financial literacy for first-generation students).
- Strengthen **security protocols** to improve students' safety.
  - Increase the number of security cameras on campus, ensuring their locations are visible in high- and low-traffic areas.

Simply put, many students do not know the role the University Students' Council plays in their daily university lives. My main priority is to increase students' engagement within the Council and understand the organization's function, which is to advocate for students. By being active within the faculty, my hope is that students are able to bring up concerns with me so that I can raise their issues to a governance body, which has the capacity to make real, tangible impacts on students' university experience.

Although the university spends ample money yearly on resources for students, many do not even know they exist. For instance, did you know that all full-time students, who have not opted out of coverage, have access to off-campus counseling services, up to a maximum of \$750 per school year? Ultimately, a goal of mine is to emphasize current supports available to students so that they no longer waste money and instead, use the resources they are already paying for.

Another one of my priorities is to increase available programming for often under-supported students. I want to ensure that these students are equipped with the tools necessary to grow and succeed, as well as enable them to contribute to the Western community. For example, I intend to push for workshop sessions for first-generation students to help them navigate university as they may not have the support system other students have.

Moreover, there is no reason any student should feel unsafe walking on campus. Whether it is attending a class, going to the Student Recreational Centre or attending a club event, to name a few, students should not have to worry about their safety. The university must implement proactive safety measures to deter students from committing bias-motivated crimes against other students. Furthermore, my goal is also to advocate for an increased number and visibility of security cameras.

*If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please email me at [rmalaban@uwo.ca](mailto:rmalaban@uwo.ca)*