



BIOLOGY
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

STRATEGIC PLAN

2018 / 2019

University of Calgary



contact@bsaucalgary.ca



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Hello!

Thank you for taking the time to view the Strategic Plan for the Biology Students' Association (BSA) at the University of Calgary! The BSA is a Students' Union sanctioned, departmental club that provides community engagement opportunities, academic resources and professional development ideas for undergraduate students enrolled within Biological Sciences related degrees.

This document aims to give students and the greater University community an idea of what the BSA hopes to accomplish within the span of the 2018/2019 academic year. The five other Executives and I hope to make the BSA a memorable aspect of any undergraduate career!

If you have any questions or ideas about the priorities or the strategic vision outlined in this document, please do not hesitate to reach out to the BSA at contact@bsaucalgary.ca. We all wish you an incredible year!

Best regards,



Omer Mansoor

President, 2018/2019

Biology Students' Association

In redesigning the club, our Executives regrouped and thought about new ways to engage members of the Biological Sciences community at the University of Calgary. Our team came up with three overarching initiatives we hope to develop this year:

1. Community Development

The BSA aims to create events that are designed to promote a sense of unity and community for students enrolled in Biological Sciences related degrees. The BSA also hopes to partner with other organizations at the University of Calgary to become more integrated within the fabric of the campus community.

2. Academic Resources

The BSA is committed to ensuring the continued academic success of any student at the University of Calgary and aims to be a hub where students can access or find resources that adhere to their needs. The BSA also aims to recognize and support students through awards and scholarships.

3. Professional Development

The BSA hopes to provide our members with professional development opportunities, which can include anything from research presentations to skills refinement. Our aim is that students feel comfortable to approach the BSA to gain professional development opportunities.

The Biology Students' Association (BSA) has reformed its governance structure, as reflected in this document and our 2018/2019 Constitution.

1. Executive Council

All the positions changed with the new Executive Council, outlining more specific duties. With still a total of 6 Executives, the VP Communications role became VP Internal Affairs.

2. Junior Executives/Coordinators

This year, the Executive Council created 6 new positions: 3 Event Coordinators & 3 Content Coordinators. Working under a specific Vice President, these positions aimed to be another facet to engage more students with the BSA. The Event Coordinators help facilitate and create meaningful social and academic based events. Content Coordinators create engaging material and articles for the BSA.

3. BSA Committee

The BSA Committee meets monthly throughout the academic year and includes a diversity of members. Apart from just the BSA Executive Council, the Committee has 6 student representatives enrolled in each Program in the department: Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, CMMB, Ecology, Plant Biology & Zoology. The Committee also has the 3 SU Science Representatives. The Committee is chaired by the Undergraduate Head in our Department, which is Dr. Heather Addy. The Committee is open for any student to come and join, not just for those with specific positions. Email us to find out more specifics!

For the 2018/2019 academic year, the Biology Students' Association's President is: [Omer Mansoor](#)

Their goals for this year are to:

1. Develop and promote the BSA in a professional manner. Not only will this allow the BSA to interact more with Faculty members, it will also provide students with a comfortable ground to get further involved with the BSA.
2. Create effective policies, guidelines and administrative procedures for the club moving forward. In order to ensure the BSA is successful, redrafting the constitution and reforming the Vice President positions to be more specific is necessary to ensure that the Executive team is as efficient as possible.
3. Promote stronger connections with the Faculty and the Students' Union to ensure sustainability and longevity of the club. This will include more active involvement with the SU club resources and events, as well as, restructuring aspects of the BSA to include more Faculty involvement.

For the 2018/2019 academic year, the Biology Students' Association's Vice President Operations & Finance is: [Evan Zhou](#)

Their goals for this year are to:

1. Improve the BSA's impact within the community by providing easy to access resources needed for undergraduate students within the department.
2. Ensure the BSA is fiscally responsible by reviewing the budget on a consistent basis. This will allow the BSA to run smoothly without a deficit and thus, be able to support students throughout their undergraduate degree.
3. Develop a cohesive Biological Sciences community through clear communication between students, the BSA Executive team and University administration. This will ensure that the voices of students are heard to allow the continuous improvement and growth of initiatives at the University of Calgary.

For the 2018/2019 academic year, the Biology Students' Association's Vice President Academic is: [Sana Jawad](#)

Their goals for this year are to:

1. Provide students who are pursuing degrees within the Biological Sciences fields a comprehensive overview of the academic options available to them through initiatives such as Course Profiles, which allow students to gain insight into science courses before they decide to enroll.
2. Connect students with the services available to help them succeed in their undergraduate degree, especially science-specific services found on and off campus.
3. Work with VP Marketing & Outreach and the other executive members to explore avenues for setting up scholarships, bursaries or research funding specific to Biological Sciences students.

For the 2018/2019 academic year, the Biology Students' Association's Vice President Internal Affairs is [Jaime Neira](#)

Their goals for this year are to:

1. Help ensure that the BSA runs smoothly, efficiently, and according to schedule. Important information about the club and its proceedings should be communicated in a timely manner, contributing to the transparency and accessibility of the club.
- .2. Foster active participation throughout the club and the department, giving students greater opportunities to get involved and engage with the greater university environment, the department, and their peers. This would serve to enable the growth of these students, both personally and professionally.
3. Encourage the growth of the club, both in terms of membership/participation and in terms of value to the students and the faculty. A helpful, valuable, and successful BSA will be able to offer greater opportunities and programs to the students it serves as it fosters inter- and intradepartmental relationships and proves itself to be an engaged and active presence in the community.

For the 2018/2019 academic year, the Biology Students' Association's Vice President Marketing is [Urva Azeem](#).

Their goals for this year are to:

1. Provide students who are pursuing degrees within the Biological Sciences fields with a comprehensive overview of information they may need; regarding, club events, meetings and any important deadlines.
2. Adhere to the needs of the students, in an accessible manner, through social media and in person. Be open to any inquires, concerns and general questions about BSA and Biological Sciences.
3. Promote BSA via social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.), and manage the marketing aspect through designing, selling and promoting merchandise.

For the 2018/2019 academic year, the Biology Students' Association's Vice President Events is [Aya Mansour](#)

Their goals for this year are to:

1. Strengthen the sense of community within the Biological Sciences department by introducing more social based events that are aimed for student engagement. This would include events like a trivia night, game night, movie night, etc.
2. Encourage biological sciences students to pursue more opportunities both professionally and academically through greater networking events. These events could be held in collaboration with various research companies, medical schools and graduate schools.
3. Inform students of the options available for them by building upon the collaborative event, 'Choose Your Major Night' and introduce networking events with professors within the department. This will allow students to inquire about research, internship or 507/528/530 opportunities.

The Biology Students' Association at the University of Calgary would love new members! You can become a member on the BSA's website at the Get Involved page.

Contact us through email at: contact@bsaucalgary.ca

Follow us on Facebook at: [@bsaucalgary1](https://www.facebook.com/bsaucalgary1)

Follow us on Instagram at: [@bsaucalgary](https://www.instagram.com/bsaucalgary)

For more information, please visit our website: www.bsaucalgary.ca