



BIOLOGY
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

2018/2019

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY THE

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

Thank you for taking the time to view the Biology Students' Association (BSA)'s Annual Report for the academic year of 2018/2019. The BSA is the main, Students' Union sanctioned, departmental club for students enrolled in Biological Sciences related degrees. The BSA at the University of Calgary provides community engagement, professional development and academic resources for its members.

This year was exciting as there were many significant changes introduced to the BSA that improved the overall impact of the association. Not only did we redevelop the BSA to serve students better, but we also made sure to develop more innovative ways to engage our department. As a result, we hope that the BSA has become a more established club on campus!

- Executive Council, 2018/2019

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS

The BSA was honoured to be recognized by the Students' Union (SU) at the University of Calgary as the Club of the Year for the 2018/2019 academic year out of 250+ nominations!

We also received an honourable mention for the Quality of Education Award by the SU!

**STUDENTS'
UNION
CLUB OF THE
YEAR AWARD**

**STUDENTS' UNION
QUALITY OF
EDUCATION
AWARD
(HONOURABLE
MENTION)**

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

AN OVERVIEW

Collecting quantitative data is important to ensure the Executive Council of the BSA can reflect on the year and plan for the future.

In the 25 years of the existence of the BSA, this year was the best yet. We saw a tremendous increase in general membership, student engagement and overall programming!

15

NEW LEADERSHIP
POSITIONS

514%

INCREASE IN
MEMBERSHIP

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

NEW POSITIONS

We worked with Dr. Heather Addy to establish a 'BSA Committee' where our Executive Council, 6 Program Reps (one from each program in Biological Sciences) and any other, interested undergraduate student met monthly to improve the department.

We also established 9 new, Junior Executive / Coordinator positions to help facilitate different aspects of the BSA. Each Coordinator was overseen by a specific Vice President.



OUR INITIATIVES

INITIATIVES

The Executive Council brought forward new and exciting initiatives this year! 5 new BSA awards were created to recognize amazing undergraduate students in the Biological Sciences department at the University of Calgary.

We also created a weekly newsletter to provide updates to our members about upcoming events, programs and initiatives.

Our team also coordinated course profiles for specific courses, which consisted of a detailed interview with a professor to gain more insight into a course. Our team will be creating more over the spring/summer and hoping to launch this initiative in Fall 2019!



OUR INITIATIVES

INITIATIVES

The BSA team also launched and fully branded a website specifically for the organization. This website allows us to engage new members, post our events, create articles/content, coordinate applications and much more.

Our team also began creating merchandise and launched new, branded BSA pins!



GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

NEW CONSTITUTION

In drafting a new constitution this year, we kept the Executive Council at 6 positions (President, VP Academic, VP Marketing & Outreach, VP Internal Affairs, VP Events, VP Operations & Finance) for smooth functioning. We rebranded the previous VP Communications role to the VP Internal Affairs and made each role much more specific.

We also established 2 new committees. The BSA Committee was created as the main advisory group to the Executive Council where our team discussed ideas each month with a group of 15-20 undergraduate students. The committee discussed our new initiatives/events and gave us amazing feedback before their implementation!

The BSA Awards Committee was created to help adjudicate recognition awards with different campus members.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

MEETINGS

Between the two committees, there were a total of 8 meetings. At these meetings, we were able to create and refine the BSA Awards, discuss our department, and get amazing feedback.

As mandated in our constitution, the Executive Council meets weekly throughout the fall and winter semesters and biweekly throughout the spring/summer semesters. This occurs to ensure smooth functioning of the BSA and to hold ourselves accountable.



OUR EVENTS

EVENTS

The BSA aimed to host more events throughout the year to engage students in both a social and professional manner.

We collaborated with Women In Science & Engineering (WISE) to host a 'Research Night' where students from both clubs got to network with over 50 professors involved in research on campus.

The BSA collaborated with the Orphan Sponsorship Program, Red Cross and the Heart & Stroke club to host a Charity Gala for Kid's Cancer Care! We managed to raise over \$1000 for the charity!

600+

STUDENT
ATTENDANCE AT
BSA EVENTS

10

EVENTS HOSTED BY
THE BSA IN TOTAL

5

COLLABORATIONS
WITH OTHER
CLUBS



THANK YOU

THANK YOU!

This year was amazing for the Biology Students' Association (BSA) as we set new records and improved our relationship with students and administration.

A special thank you to our department for being so willing to work with students and supporting our ideas!

Thank you for being engaged and supporting the association. Our team looks forward to the continued growth of the BSA!

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