



Policy Platform **2014**

Fellow Ravens,

It is with great honor that I stand before you as the Presidential candidate for the 2014 CUSA elections with my team, A Better Carleton. This year's executive candidates represent the diversity of the wider Carleton University community and with their commitment to you, we hope to continue on the road to A Better Carleton.

Over the last two years the Carleton University Students' Association has embarked on a journey to make our students association work for those it was intended for, the students. Under the leadership of A Better Carleton, CUSA has brought you a Fall Break, lowered your Health Plan fees and created one of the largest student association bursary funds in the country to aid students in need. With A Better Carleton and your support, CUSA will continue to provide you with results.

With A Better Carleton, your student association will continue to strive towards ensuring that your university experience is as good as it can possibly be. Results brought to you by experience, dedication and hard work form the backbone of our successes and that will surely continue as we enter a new academic year together.

Below you will find our policy platform for this election. It is not exhaustive of the mandate we will embark on once elected but rather an indication of the direction CUSA will be heading in when you vote for A Better Carleton.

Sincerely,

Folarin Odunayo

Presidential Candidate

A Better Carleton 2014

PRESIDENT

1. A Better U-Pass Deal

The U-PASS program originally implemented in 2010 with student support is up for review during the upcoming fiscal year. Once elected, A Better Carleton will ensure that the renegotiation process takes into consideration our students' feedback on the performance of the program as a whole. We will look to provide students with an opt-in Summer Semester U-PASS option all the while lobbying City Hall ahead of the upcoming municipal election for an increased service year around.

2. A Faster Opt-Out Process from the Health, Dental & Accident Plan

The newly improved Carleton University Students' Association Health, Dental and Accident Plan implemented in 2012 has saved \$20 to every undergraduate student who decides to remain in plan while improving coverage and service. Once elected, A Better Carleton will further enhance coverage in the vision and dental care categories all the while easing the opt-out process by streamlining it through Carleton Central for those students who are covered externally and decide to leave the plan.

3. The Formation of a Work-Study Program at CUSA

Over the past two years, A Better Carleton has increased the number of student jobs within the Carleton University Students' Association by about 10% all the while hiring about four times more international students throughout campus. Recognizing the need for further opportunities for our students, once elected, A Better Carleton will partner up with Carleton University to create a dedicated Work-Study Program that would give access to new opportunities to those students interested in being employed on campus.

4. The Continuation of Transparency Reform at CUSA

The Carleton University Students' Association has come a long way over the past 30 months in rebuilding its reputation and working with both students and the Carleton University administration as a whole in portraying a positive image of our organization. From making all of our internal documents available online to conducting thorough audit reports within the offices and our businesses, once elected, A Better Carleton will continue to work with the wider community in bringing up our reputation.

5. A Further Expansion of the CUSA Bursary Fund & More Student Opportunities

A Better Carleton believes in the Carleton University Students' Association being the connecting mechanism between our students and various opportunities that come up for them while pursuing a post secondary degree. Once elected, we will work hard to create more student bursaries, jobs and networking opportunities that will allow for our students to prosper during their careers on campus and beyond their time here.

VP FINANCE

1. The Elimination of ATM Fees from all of Our Student Businesses

Over the past two years, A Better Carleton has made it a priority of putting money back into students' pockets, the past two executive teams have reduced their benefits and donated these funds towards student bursaries, while the newly improved Carleton University Students' Association Health, Dental and Accident Plan implemented in 2012 has saved \$20 to every undergraduate student. In the interest of continuing to reduce student costs, when elected, we commit to completely eliminate the ATM Fees at all of the Carleton University Students' Association run businesses.

2. The Creation of a Student Rewards Program in all of Our Student Businesses

Since the arrival of A Better Carleton, the Carleton University Students' Association run businesses, Oliver's Pub & Patio, Rooster's Coffeehouse, Henry's Convenience Store and Haven Books have all made tremendous progress in set up and service while making profits that ultimately improve our students' experience as members of our organization. When elected, we will revamp and enhance the Student Rewards Program to recognize our students' support of our student run businesses.

3. The Formation of a Work-Study Program at CUSA

Over the past two years, A Better Carleton has increased the number of student jobs within the Carleton University Students' Association by about 10% all the while hiring about four times more international students throughout campus. Recognizing the need for further opportunities for our students, once elected, I will work with our Presidential Candidate Folarin Odunayo and partner up with Carleton University to create a dedicated Work-Study Program that would give access to new opportunities to those students interested in being employed on campus.

4. The Establishment of a Fresh-Food Market within Henry's Convenience Store

A Better Carleton believes in the Carleton University Students' Association to be a green, sustainable organization. Once elected, we will establish a Fresh-Food Market within Henry's Convenience Store and make it your go to student business for fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables available year around for all of our students.

5. The Delivery of an Accountable & Transparent Budget

This past year, the current Vice President Finance, Folarin Odunayo delivered the best budget that the Carleton University Students' Association has seen in a decade. Once elected, I will work with Folarin in ensuring that his own record is further enhanced with the establishment of A Better Carleton Budget that focuses on priorities that matter.

VP INTERNAL

1. An Increase in FACCS Funding for Clubs & Societies

Clubs and Societies constitute the backbone of student activity at the Carleton University Students' Association and in recognition of this, A Better Carleton has for two years in a row increased the funds allocated to these groups through the Financial Assistance Committee for Clubs and Societies. Once elected, I will use my personal experience with these groups around campus in order to ensure that their needs continue to be met, while maintaining their accountability and transparency.

2. The Creation of Storage Space for Clubs & Societies

The increasing number of Clubs and Societies created under the umbrella of the Carleton University Students' Association allows for day in and day out programming throughout our campus and the city of Ottawa. The bigger and better events organized by these groups in turn require additional materials and equipment, once elected, A Better Carleton will ensure that dedicated storage space is established for these groups free of charge for the said groups as a part of their FACCS Funding.

3. The Organization of Cultural Nights for Clubs and Societies

Carleton University is home to one of the largest international student populations in the province and the Carleton University Students' Association proudly hosts an impressive number of involved international students who on a daily basis are delighted to showcase their culture to our greater community. Once elected, we will organize cultural nights at Oliver's Pub and Patio that would allow us to bring the world to Carleton University.

4. Philanthropic Funding for Clubs & Societies & Individuals

If giving back is one of the most common traits of a Canadian, volunteering hours upon hours of time to various non-governmental organizations and campaigns is one the most common traits to a student at Carleton University. Once elected, A Better Carleton will provide our Clubs and Societies as well as individuals with Philanthropic Funding that would empower our students to give back and further establish our name as a heavyweight in the wider community.

5. An Effective Reform of CUSA Council & Internal Structures

Carleton University Students' Association day to day operations are supervised by a representative body of directors. This council is meant to be the forefront of the organization and in many instances it hosts a number of involved individuals who are leaders within our student population. Once elected, we will engage in council reform to empower its members to become more effective advocates for all students.

VP STUDENT LIFE

1. A Winter Carnival Welcome Back Week at Carleton University

Our sense of community at the Carleton University Students' Association is best witnessed during the Fall Orientation Week program. This past fall, CUSA has also hosted *Life In Color* which was attended by 5,000 folks from our great institution. Once elected, A Better Carleton will aim to bring these positive experiences to the winter season by hosting a Winter Carnival Welcome Back Week for all of our students.

2. The Establishment of a Sports & Events Box Office at the CUSA Office

Ottawa is home to a number of fantastic sports teams as well as a host city to great events and festivals year round. Once elected, A Better Carleton, will bring students the convenience of making sports and entertainment tickets readily available with the establishment of a Box Office in the central location of our campus, the CUSA Office.

3. The Accessibility of the Orientation Week Concert to All Students

Our Fall Orientation Week program has been growing year in and year out, while we make students feel welcomed back at the beginning of the academic year. Once elected, A Better Carleton will open up the Fall Orientation Week Concert to all of our students.

4. The Organization of Cultural Nights for Clubs and Societies

Carleton University is home to one of the largest international student populations in the province and the Carleton University Students' Association proudly hosts an impressive number of involved international students who on a daily basis are delighted to showcase their culture to our greater community. Once elected, I will work with our Vice President Internal Candidate Sofia Dala to organize cultural nights at Oliver's Pub and Patio that would allow us to bring the world to Carleton University and Carleton University to the world.

5. The Creation of Networking Opportunities for Young Alumni

A Better Carleton believes in the Carleton University Students' Association being the connecting mechanism between our students and various opportunities that come up for them while pursuing a post secondary degree but also as they move on to their careers of choice. Once elected, we will assist our graduating class in preparing them for their future endeavors by creating networking opportunities with industry professionals.

6. Keep the Free CUSA Swag Coming

A Better Carleton is about all about Raven Pride, once elected, we will make sure that you wear our institution's name on your sleeves year around just like I do.

VP STUDENT ISSUES

1. A Better U-Pass Deal

The U-PASS program originally implemented in 2010 with student support is up for review during the upcoming fiscal year. Once elected, I will work with our Presidential Candidate Folarin Odunayo to ensure that we take into consideration our students' feedback on the performance of the program as a whole. We will look to providing students with an opt-in Summer Semester U-PASS option all the while lobbying City Hall ahead of the upcoming municipal election for an increased service year around.

2. A Streamlined Way for Students to Evaluate & Deal with Professor Conflicts

As the number of students at Carleton University grows, so does the number of administrative members, staff and faculty. However, there are times when students and professors get into arguments over course content and grades. Way too often this results in a student having to drop classes, which ultimately impacts negatively on both their pocket and time commitments. Once elected, A Better Carleton will create a Streamlined Way for Students to Evaluate and Deal with Professor Conflicts.

3. The Establishment of a Greyhound & Via Rail Student Box Office

Carleton University is our home away for home and sometimes our students wish to be able to go visit friends and family over the fall or winter break or even to explore a nearby city over the weekend. Once elected, A Better Carleton will bring students the convenience of Greyhound and Via Rail tickets readily available with the establishment of a Box Office in the central location of our campus, the CUSA Office.

4. Introduce Dedicated Funding for an Effective Mental Health Awareness Campaign through the Health & Wellness Resource Centre for our Students by our Students

Over the past two years, A Better Carleton has made our students' health a priority on all levels included but not limited to academic, mental and physical. From the launch of the Fall Break each October to the establishment of the Health and Wellness Centre, the Carleton University Students' Association has promoted our students' wellbeing. When elected, we will introduce dedicated funding and resources to create an effective Mental Health Awareness campaign that would address the issues we face as students.

5. Bringing More Water Bottle Refill Stations to Carleton University

Although there are a number of water fountains on and around campus, no one can argue against the fact that at this stage they are dated and it takes forever to fill up a water bottle. A Better Carleton is supporting of green values and in favor of sustainable initiative and once elected, we will work with the Carleton University administration to bring more Water Bottle Refill Stations throughout campus just like by the CUSA office.

VP STUDENT SERVICES

1. The Establishment of a CUSA Multipurpose Centre

A Better Carleton believes in convenience and providing students with services that are relevant to all of us during our time at Carleton University. Every single one of us who has ever used the printing services at the MacOdrum Library during the exam season or the microwaves on the first floor of the University Centre would know how busy it can get. Once elected, A Better Carleton will establish a CUSA Multipurpose Centre with cheaper printing services, microwaves and additional study space available for all.

2. The Creation of a Peer to Peer Centralized Tutorial Service Centre

As the number of students at Carleton University grows, so does the number of courses being offered. Academic success forms the basis to our ultimate goal of enhancing our students experience as they pursue a post-secondary education. Once elected, A Better Carleton will create a Peer to Peer Centralized Tutorial Service Centre that would be able to connect students who need help with some of the challenging courses and student tutors interested in making some money and helping their peers.

3. An Increase and Improvement in Service Centre Outreach

Over the past two years, A Better Carleton has welcomed two new service centers to the Carleton University Students' Association family, our Vice President Finance Reda Zarrug has personally overseen the establishment of the Multi-Faith Centre and the Health and Wellness Centre that are now used by hundreds of students. Once elected, we will make sure that our Service Centres work on their outreach mechanisms in order to engage our students in various creative ways from class talks to social media.

4. Introduce Dedicated Funding for an Effective Mental Health Awareness Campaign through the Health & Wellness Resource Centre for our Students by our Students

Over the past two years, A Better Carleton has made our students' health a priority on all levels included but not limited to academic, mental and physical. From the launch of the Fall Break each October to the establishment of the Health and Wellness Centre, the Carleton University Students' Association has promoted our students' wellbeing. Once elected, I will work with our Vice President Student Issues Candidate Maddy Porter to introduce dedicated funding and resources to create an effective Mental Health Awareness campaign that would address the issues we face as students.

5. A Greenhouse in the Food Centre by Students for Students

The Carleton University Students' Association Food Centre is one of the most used Service Centres within our organization feedings thousands of students year around. Once elected, A Better Carleton will establish a greenhouse on its patio in order to grow fresh food and vegetables while weather permits by our students for our students.

My Dear Ravens,

Over these last two years the Carleton University Students' Association has gone leaps and bounds in our efforts to deliver our students with A Better Carleton. Yet, this journey is not complete, and while my two year term as the President of CUSA is coming to end I am confident that the ABC team seeking your support this election season will continue the trend of working hard for all students.

When I first sought your support to be your CUSA President, I ran on the platform of improving the reputation of our organization and producing real results for students and I believe we have achieved this. Some of the largest achievements ABC has brought our students was a Fall Break, created a Multi-Faith Centre, reduced your student fees and established a bursary fund that will in perpetuity help our students in need.

Achieving these results was not easy and I feel obliged to give credit to the support and efforts of both of my executive teams and the students who were there for me all along, they were my main source of inspiration and were always ready to help out. This year, Folarin Odunayo and Reda Zarrug have shown the leadership, knowledge and insight needed to come back for another term and lead our growing association.

Folarin, Reda, Sofia, Maddy, Adil and Rawan are all proven leaders on our campus and I am certain that they will do a fantastic job in managing our organization. They have exemplified what it means to be a leader within the Carleton University community and I have no doubt that they will continue to build A Better Carleton at CUSA.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting me with your student association for the last two years and I am confident in that you will join me by continuing to chose *A Better Carleton* for all students.

On January 29th and 30th I encourage you to vote for experience, I encourage you to vote for dedication, I encourage you to vote for hard work and I encourage you to vote for Folarin Odunayo and his team A Better Carleton.

Sincerely,

Alexander Golovko

CUSA President 2012-2014