

POSITION STATEMENT: Bishop's Campus Connection

ISSUE:

Ensuring that Bishop's University students are part of a connected, inclusive, and collaborative campus culture where student voices are formally recognized and meaningfully integrated into institutional decision-making. The SRC also recognizes the importance of community to students, which is strengthened through inclusivity, events, and a sense of belonging. Students deserve to feel represented, informed and supported in all areas of campus life.

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:

- The Bishop's University Students' Representative Council
- Bishop's University
- Government of Canada
- Quebec Government
- Maple League of Universities
- Quebec Student Union

DETAILS:

The Bishop's University Students' Representative Council (BUSRC) plays a central role in fostering community and active student life through programming, events, and representation in tandem with the university. Major policy shifts, academic restructuring, and changes in services directly impact students and their overall university experiences. Ensuring that students' voices are represented in decisions surrounding campus connection and that students are centered within these decisions is essential for a strong and vibrant community.

IMPACT/ANALYSIS:

A thriving campus culture depends on collaboration and transparency. When student voices are excluded from decision-making or consultation processes, it deeply impacts the overall sense of community. Ensuring transparency and clear communications will increase and sustain participation in campus life. Students are very vocal around the community, acting as the foundation of our campus, and its prioritization is essential for the longevity of Bishop's.

POSITION:

The Students' Representative Council advocates for a cohesive and engaged campus community that strengthens student belonging and institutional connection. We support initiatives that foster collaboration between students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the greater Lennoxville community. Institutional efforts must prioritize inclusive engagement, student-centered events, and sustained opportunities for student leadership and participation to ensure that all students feel meaningfully connected to Bishop's.

The Students' Representative Council supports the following:

Long-Term Goals:

- Mandatory student consultation on academic restructuring and major policy shifts
- Increased financial transparency regarding institutional decisions
- Enhanced university support for student-led groups
- The implementation of a second student representative on the Board of Governors based on financial contributions
- Improved university-to-student communications through clear policy
- Expanded institutional collaboration between academic and operational departments
- Increased provincial and federal funding for post-secondary education
- Ongoing support and maintenance of Fall Reading Break
- Ongoing support of The Gait as a central SRC operation and student social space

Short-Term Goals:

- Formal commitment to student involvement in executive onboarding and hiring processes
- Development of a strong and sustained partnership among Maple League student unions
- Formal acknowledgement of the central role the SRC plays in maintaining student life and supporting the university
- Greater clarity and transparency within the University's bylaws and policies

The Students' Representative Council opposes the following:

- Exclusion of student voices in the decision-making process
- Reductions in transparency regarding university finances, restructuring or governance
- Communication practices that fail to prioritize clarity, accessibility, and student engagement
- Major structural changes or the ending of community events that are key to student life, such as Orientation Week, Winterfest, and Grad formal