

Mercedes Parsons

NUSU Director-at-Large and Education & Professional Studies Student
Senator Candidate

ABOUT ME

I am a second year student in the Honours Bachelor of Business Administration program doing a double major in Accounting & Marketing.

I am from the Midland area which is approximately 30 minutes from Barrie, Ontario; however, I am residing fulltime in North Bay until I obtain my degree. I am also a huge animal lover, enjoy theatre and can't wait to be able to travel again.

EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

This academic year I was one of the Director-at-Larges for NUSU which was an incredibly active commitment that I embraced. In this capacity I never hesitated to make my opinions on what was best for my peers known - even if it disagreed with the majority. This experience gave me a passion for corporate governance which is a crucial responsibility of any member of the NUSU Board of Directors.

Additionally, this year I was a delegate at the Canadian Federation of Students' (CFS) Ontario Lobby Week where I met with MPPs to advocate for the rights and needs of students. As I intend to go to law school, I have a strong commitment to justice and advocacy which will be key to my success as a Student Senator.

WHY I'M RUNNING

After spending a year as a Director-at-Large and becoming familiar with the position, I believe I am even more eager to continue voicing opinions in favour of students. My time at NUSU has helped me recognize some areas for improvement. If re-elected, I would be dedicated to making NUSU's services, policies and procedures not only fair but accessible to all. For example, the by-laws can be challenging to understand; I would continue to push for higher readability and greater direction about where to find necessary information.

I believe I would make a strong Student Senator for the Education & Professional Studies faculty because of my sense of responsibility to advocate for my friends and peers. With the COVID-19 pandemic, there were many academic challenges that all Nipissing students, including myself, experienced. As a result, this year I became very familiar with the university's policies around appeals, academic dishonesty and complaints. As these will be some of the major responsibilities I would handle as a Student Senator, I will have a strong foundation going into the role.

MY THREE GOALS

My goals for the 2021-2022 academic year will include:

GOAL	PLAN
Make NUSU's services and policies fair and easily accessible.	Advocate for this consistently at board and governance committee meetings and put motions forward in support of this.
Advocate for high quality learning in both online and in-person courses.	I believe higher quality learning can be achieved by fighting for higher accountability among professors & faculties. This could be done by increasing the impact of student surveys and having a simple procedure for providing feedback and constructive criticism earlier in the semester.
Create a portal to suggest and see advocacy work NUSU is involved in.	There are many behind the scenes campaigns that NUSU is involved in. I would work with the VP of Advocacy & Awareness to create a section on the NUSU website where students can see what we are fighting for and the progress we have made. Additionally, on this page there would be an anonymous survey available 24/7 for students to provide input.