



June 2023

President Ann Marie Vaughn,

As IGNITE student advocates, we have the privilege of collaborating with you to make the student experience the best it can be. Since our inception, HSF, now IGNITE, has dedicated significant efforts to positively impact student life at Humber College. We take pride in the strong relationship based on mutual respect and aligned priorities that we have cultivated with Humber over the years.

Through collaborating with students in our role, we firmly recognized that it is the students who know their needs best. As their advocates, we have identified certain points that are essential to students and require immediate attention and action from Humber within the next 1-2 years. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to work hand in hand with you to address the advocacy priorities listed in this document so we can continue fostering a thriving student community at Humber College.

Thank you,

Jessica & Melany

Advocacy Priorities

International Student Support and Resources

- Increase transparency between the International Department, IGNITE, and international students by implementing a tuition freeze and ensuring mandatory IGNITE involvement in tuition framework development.. By taking proactive steps, Humber will demonstrate its commitment to supporting international students and fostering an inclusive environment that values their well-being and success.
- Create an international student-specific work-study program to subsidize on-campus jobs. Humber can accomplish this within 18 months by allocating a percentage of money from international student fees. Providing on-campus departments with the ability to hire international students at a reduced rate, similar to domestic students, will enhance access to safe job opportunities and financial resources for our international student population.

On-campus Food

- Strengthened partnership with IGNITE SoupBar to effectively address food insecurity on campus within the next 18 months. By providing increased space, funding, and donations of goods, we can expand the menu beyond soup and work towards achieving food justice for our students. This expansion will contribute to increased financial security and a stronger sense of belonging within the student community.
- Hold on-campus vendors accountable. We urge the inclusion of equitable and just food strategy values in the selection process for on-campus vendors by ensuring the food strategy is embedded in each RFP process. Additionally, we request that IGNITE be granted two seats on the 2023–24 selection committee for the new vendor. By prioritizing food as a service and community builder rather than a mere revenue generator or business, we can ensure the well-being of our students is being supported.

Wellness

- Increase the quality and accessibility of mental health resources across all campuses, including virtual platforms, within the next 24 months. By improving mental health outcomes and the overall student experience, we aim to reduce the number of students, particularly international students, reporting symptoms of depression, anxiety, and stress.

Work-Integrated Learning

- Eliminate co-op fees, ranging from \$440 to \$660, for both international and domestic students within the next 18 months. Despite the initial purpose of this fee, students have reported inadequate support in securing placements. Continuing to collect this fee without delivering the intended results for students is unjust. Removing this fee will enhance student financial security, foster equity between international and domestic students, and strengthen trust and transparency between students and the institution

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging

- Commit to a coordinated institutional approach toward EDI which includes students, staff, faculty and community stakeholders. Ensuring IGNITE's involvement in setting a new student-centric direction will help Humber make better informed decisions resulting in a likelihood of improved results, increased student KPIs results, and increased student attachment to the college.

Student Representation

Ensure student involvement in institutional decision making by:

- Expanding IGNITE's Academic Program Representatives to include a new faculty by Fall 2024, and a minimum of one additional faculty per year thereafter.
- Including students in senior executive hiring processes and on institutional committees.
- Committing to participation in 3 IGNITE-led town halls per year, featuring members of senior administration, faculty, and the Department of Student Success and Engagement.

Achieving these goals within the next 18 months will significantly enhance the student post-secondary experience, empower students, and ensure that student feedback remains at the core of all institutional decision-making processes. We firmly believe that by prioritizing student representation, Humber College can create an inclusive and student-centric environment.

In conclusion, we firmly believe that by addressing the advocacy priorities outlined in this document, students at Humber College will greatly benefit. We are dedicated to collaborating with Humber administration to ensure the best possible student experience and foster a thriving student community. We eagerly look forward to arranging a meeting with you to discuss these priorities in more detail and explore potential strategies and actions that can be taken to implement positive changes. It is through open dialogue and partnership that we can make meaningful progress in enhancing student life.

Thank you for taking the time to review this document and considering our advocacy priorities. We greatly appreciate your attention to these important matters, and we are confident that together we can create a better future for all students.

Thank you,

Jessica & Melany