

Fassa



Recap

A YEAR OF GROWTH

As we take time to reflect on the academic year, growth and change have been consistent themes from month to month. Change took many forms this year: new executive team members, returning members stepping into new roles, new FOSSA-affiliated clubs, and most notably, many changes within the students' union. Oftentimes, these changes brought mixed feelings and emotions for clubs, executive team members, and ourselves.

If you interviewed for FOSSA last year, you may recall being asked, "Who, in your opinion, is the biggest leader on FOSSA?" The answer is you. Every single executive member of FOSSA is a leader on this team. The changes we experienced this year showed us just how true that is. Even if you didn't always realize it, we saw immense growth in every member of this team. In turn, this also allowed us to grow and learn as your president/EVP team.

As your president/EVP team, we have felt incredibly privileged that you trusted us with our ideas and felt comfortable sharing your own with us—whether as executive members or as general science students. Connecting with fellow science students through FOSSA has been one of the greatest privileges of our undergraduate experience, whether you attended just one event while passing through the atrium or came to chat with us at FOSSA Fuel every Monday without fail.

Working alongside the executive team has been such a learning and growing experience for us all. We will take what you have taught us into the next stages of our lives, whether that is masters programs or a future co-president position. To all science students, thank you for trusting us with a portion of your undergraduate experience. To the current and past executive team members of FOSSA, thank you for allowing us to grow, trusting us, and supporting us.

Sincerely,

Your 2025/26 Presidents and EVP team

(Alyssa Scheifele, Arfan Sivarooaban, and Nuha Moostofa)



MARKETING TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

It's crazy how fast a year can fly by! Coming into my second year in marketing, I didn't expect to still be learning as much as I did, but I ended up learning something new with every post. So grateful to the team for making this year so special, and especially seeing Arsh who stepped into the VP role after we were co-directors last year. Always thankful to be a part of the FOSSA FAM, and I'm so excited for what's ahead! - **Tiffany**



Wrapping up my second year on this team, it's amazing to see how much everyone has grown and improved. Being a part of marketing challenged me in ways I never thought I needed. I'm really grateful that FOSSA has introduced me to such an amazing team, within marketing and the FOSSA fam itself. Looking back on the year, I'm really glad I got to be a part of this team and experience working alongside such amazing people. - **Michelle**

Being part of the marketing team in my second year of FOSSA was an incredibly rewarding experience. While I felt involved as a first-year rep, I didn't realize how much work went on behind the scenes. Stepping into this role gave me a whole new appreciation for it. I wasn't sure what to expect at first, but I quickly saw how collaborative and supportive the team was! The constant encouragement from our VP of Marketing, Arsh, and the support from my co-directors was more than I could have ever asked for. Being surrounded by such kind, accommodating, and fun people made the experience even more enjoyable! - **Muskaan**



FROM DIRECTOR TO VP OF MARKETING

It was a tremendous honour to serve as VP of Marketing for FOSSA's 2025/2026 year, an experience that has been incredibly rewarding and deeply meaningful. I first joined the team as a Co-Director of Marketing for 2024/2025, stepping into the role with determination and an eagerness to lead. From the very beginning, I was surrounded by our FOSSA family, who were genuinely supportive, making the transition into leadership feel natural and empowering.

This year, I had the privilege of overseeing our marketing content and digital presence, working alongside an exceptionally talented Co-Director Marketing team (Muskaan, Tiffany, Michelle and Emmanuella). Together, my team and I continued to establish the creative and branding standards FOSSA is known for across all our posts. From executing high-impact campaigns for events like FOSSA Formal 2026 to successfully selling out our merchandise line, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished.

As I reflect on my final year at Laurier, I am beyond grateful for my time with FOSSA. FOSSA is more than just a student organization; we are a community that fosters growth, inclusivity, and genuine connection. Serving as VP of Marketing has shaped me in ways I will carry forward in the next chapters of my life, and it is an experience I will always cherish. - Arsh



MORE THAN JUST EVENTS

This year with the FOSSA Events Team has truly been a memorable journey. Behind the scenes of event planning, it was definitely a bit of a bumpy ride at times. Planning multiple events throughout the year came with its fair share of challenges, from tight timelines and last-minute changes to navigating approvals and logistics. There were moments where things didn't go exactly as planned, and we had to think on our feet and adapt quickly. Despite this, what made the experience so special was the people. As a team, we leaned on each other, supported one another, and found ways to turn stressful situations into moments of fun and laughter. Whether it was fun errands to grab material, quick problem-solving during events, or celebrating the little wins together, we created an atmosphere that made all the hard work worthwhile. Looking back, it's incredible to see everything we accomplished, from planning FOSSA formal to even smaller de-stressors like pot painting. Each event brought students together and helped foster a sense of connection within the Faculty of Science, which is something we're really proud of. Overall, while the journey wasn't always smooth, it was filled with growth, resilience, and so many great memories. The FOSSA Events Team truly made the most out of every moment, and it's an experience we'll carry with us moving forward, and something we will truly reminisce being an amazing, close-knit and happy team.



**Andrew, Leo,
Aish, and Ben**

LEADING WITH INCLUSION

Being an EDII Coordinator for the Faculty of Science Student Association this year has been a truly amazing opportunity and one of the highlights of my year. Through this role, I was able to help share meaningful and relevant information with students about important topics affecting diverse communities, while also growing and learning so much myself along the way. From initiatives like Breast Cancer Awareness Month to posts recognizing important global awareness days, our team worked together to create an inclusive and understanding environment within the faculty and I hope we were able to make students feel more informed, supported, and connected. - Joice

My name is Nataly Morales Hernandez, and I had the privilege of serving as one of FOSSA's EDII Coordinators for the 2025-2026 year. I was motivated to take on this role because of my own experiences as a first-generation Latin American student in the Faculty of Science, where I became deeply aware of how important it is for students to feel seen, supported, and included. One initiative I was especially proud to help implement within the club this year was the FOSSA Unfiltered Podcast, which was created to create a platform for students to voice their experiences and perspectives within the Faculty of Science Students' Association and encourage greater student engagement through an equity and diversity lens. I truly enjoyed this experience as I was supported by wonderful teammates who shared a common goal to foster a welcoming environment and gained skills within leadership regarding EDII advocacy that I will carry on throughout my future endeavors. I love my FOSSA FAM! - Nataly

Wow, it has been 3 years of being an EDII Coordinator for FOSSA, and it's crazy to imagine this is the end. Over the past years on FOSSA, we have made tremendous strides to make the faculty a place where all students can feel safe, and outreach to the Waterloo community has involved initiatives like fundraisers and donations. Each year, as a team we're introduced to a new perspective, each different from the last which has allowed us to grow as a team. That's just been the best part, the EDII team is one that is ever evolving, moving forward each day and I know that the future of it will continue to support students and the community. FOSSA, its students, and execs will forever be something that reflects learning, happiness and innovation to me. Logging out, - Your EDII Coordinator- Rushell.

Contributing to projects like the FOSSA Unfiltered Podcast was a huge highlight of my experience on the EDII team. Not only did it serve as a platform for students to share their opinions and voices, but it also allowed us to spark conversations about equity and inclusion that resonate across the faculty. Being part of such a supportive team dedicated to creating a welcoming environment for everyone has been really rewarding. I've loved every minute of working with my fellow coordinators and these experiences have taught me a lot about the power of advocacy. I'm definitely taking these lessons with me as I move forward, and I am genuinely grateful for all the opportunities and wonderful people I've worked with this year. - Ravneet



CREATING FOSSA CONTENT

Being part of FOSSA this past year, especially on the Photo/Video team, has been a really meaningful experience for both of us. Through our roles, we had the blessing to capture the moments that bring the Faculty of Science community together. Through filming events, editing recap videos, or



creating interview style content, we really enjoyed being able to showcase the energy and excitement of FOSSA and share it with other students. What we appreciated most about the Photo/Video position was the balance between creativity and responsibility. The role gave us the freedom to experiment with different editing styles and ways of

telling a story, while still making sure the final content represented FOSSA in a polished and professional way. We especially enjoyed working on videos that highlighted students and their experiences, that is what really makes the community within FOSSA so unique. All in all, being part of the Photo/Video team has helped us feel more connected to our Faculty of Science. It allowed us to contribute creatively, work collaboratively, and play a small role in shaping how FOSSA is experienced and remembered by students. Thank you, FOSSA, for such a meaningful and memorable year. - Catherine and Ali



THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Over my time working as VP of Academics on FOSSA this year, I've learned one very important lesson: it's okay to ask for help. Although this role was largely independent and much of the work fell on my shoulders, I quickly realized that I was never truly alone. Whether it was brainstorming ideas for FURC, navigating challenges with RAS, or just needing a second opinion, I could always count on the support of my fellow FOSSA Executive members. This team is an incredibly warm, driven, and welcoming group of individuals who never hesitate to come together and collaborate. No matter how big or small the task, we were always willing to "gang up" (in the best way possible!) to bring every initiative to life. Through this experience, I not only grew more confident in my leadership abilities but also learned the value of teamwork, community, and mutual support. Being part of this executive team has been such a rewarding experience, and I am so excited to continue in this role next year! - Zara Belanger-Pepper



FROM BUDGET TO IMPACT



Sohan and Imaan

Hey everyone!!

This year, FOSSA Finance continued to play a key role in managing our funds and supporting the many initiatives that make our club what it is. The finance team remains a crucial part of FOSSA's success. While great ideas drive us forward, it is strong financial planning that ensures those ideas can actually come to life.

Throughout the year, we focused on maintaining and refining our budgeting

processes while continuing to improve how we track and allocate our resources. Our budget tracker remained an essential tool in organizing expenditures by semester and cost, allowing us to stay proactive and ensure that all events and initiatives were executed efficiently and responsibly.

Building on what we already had in place, we also continued to seek out opportunities for external support. By reaching out to partners and preparing proposals, we were able to secure additional funding that helped sustain and expand our operations. These efforts reinforced the importance of persistence and adaptability when working within financial constraints.

The remainder of the year included managing scholarships, reimbursements, donations, and supporting self-funded events. Thanks to careful planning and consistent oversight, we were able to navigate the year smoothly and keep everything running behind the scenes.

This year reinforced the value of organization, teamwork, and staying resilient when challenges arise. Above all, we carried forward the mindset of pushing forward and making the most of every opportunity.

MORE THAN JUST REPS

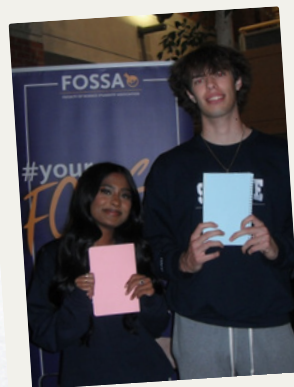
Working as the FOSSA representative team over the past year has been a massive part of our university experience. Looking back, we're honestly just grateful we got the chance to represent the Faculty of Science and connect with so many people across the department. Joining the team ended up being a highlight of the year and resulted in some genuine friendships that made the workload easier to handle. Even though the interview process was intense, it only fueled our excitement to get started and marked the beginning of a journey that pushed us to grow both personally and professionally.

What made this year special were the connections we built along the way. Karaoke night is a classic event that stands out as a moment where everyone was all together. Seeing our co-members genuinely engaged and enjoying themselves made us understand the true meaning behind "FOSSA Fam." It wasn't just about the scheduled programming; it was about those small, unscripted moments between classes or during late-night planning sessions where we truly bonded over our shared goals for the faculty.

Beyond the social highlights, this role gave us a front-row seat to the behind-the-scenes effort it takes to keep a faculty running. We learned how to navigate complex logistics, manage tight deadlines, and communicate effectively with both students and staff. There were definitely moments of high pressure, especially when balancing our own academic loads with FOSSA responsibilities, but having a reliable team meant we never had to carry that weight alone. We learned that leadership isn't just about taking charge, but about supporting your peers when things get hectic.

As we look toward the future, we realize that the skills we've sharpened here go far beyond a simple resume addition. We're walking away with a much deeper sense of confidence and a network of people we know we can count on. The "FOSSA Fam" isn't just a catchy phrase to us anymore; it represents a community that pushed us to be better versions of ourselves.

We're incredibly proud of what we accomplished this year and can't wait to see how the next group of representatives continues to build on this momentum. To the future FOSSA representatives, we hope you embrace every part of this experience—the exciting moments, the stressful ones, and everything in between. Take the time to build connections, support one another, and remember that the impact you have may not always be immediately visible, but it is always meaningful. Most importantly, enjoy it. The year goes by faster than you expect, but the memories and friendships you build will stay with you long after. - Carter, Tishauna, and Jasleen



SUPPORTING FOSSA CLUBS

Being part of the Faculty of Science Students' Association (FOSSA) has been one of the best parts of my undergraduate experience. It gave me a community to be part of and an outlet to grow in ways that extended far beyond the classroom.

Throughout my time in FOSSA, I found myself surrounded by people who were passionate, driven, and committed to striving high and making the student experience better. FOSSA quickly became something that was not just something I was involved in but became a space where I developed skills, built relationships, and found a sense of purpose during my undergrad.



Serving as VP of Clubs & Associations extended my perspective on that experience. I was able to see how impactful these kinds of spaces are, not just for me, but for so many other students. Each club, in its own way, plays a role in shaping someone's undergraduate experience, whether it's helping them find their community, explore their interests, or grow as a leader.

It was incredibly rewarding to support clubs that were creating those same opportunities for others. I saw firsthand how much effort goes into building and sustaining these communities, and how meaningful that impact can be. It made me appreciate even more the role that student organizations play in shaping not just what students do during their undergrad, but who they become because of it.

Thanks to this experience, I'll always encourage others to get involved in their community. Your grades will open doors, but it's the experiences and communities you invest yourself in that will shape you and push you to grow :) - Gurleen Banger

As we reflect on this past year, we are so grateful to have been a part of such a great team - our FOSSA family! Being able to create newsletters every month has truly been an incredible experience, and we feel honoured to have shared our creativity with you. We sincerely appreciate your support and engagement throughout the year, as it has made this experience truly rewarding!

Signing off,

2025-2026 COMMS TEAM



Shunit Waisenberg and Sanyog Surana