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2025



OVER THE EDGE IS BACK!

OVER  
THE  
EDGE

UNBC'S  
STUDENT  
NEWSPAPER

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# From High School Crushing It to University... Not Crushing It (Yet)

AHMAD JALIL

Hey there! So, remember those university movies? Pitch Perfect. The Social Network. Good Will Hunting. Yeah, turns out UNBC is nothing like those. No spontaneous acapella battles in the Agora (unfortunately), and definitely no Matt Damon solving impossible math problems on hallway whiteboards.

But here's the thing, it's also not the academic horror story your high school teachers warned you about.

## The Freedom is Real (and Slightly Terrifying)

Coming to UNBC means you suddenly have choices. Like, a weird amount of choices. Want to wear your Birkenstocks with socks in -20°? Go for it. Feel like taking that Nisga'a Language elective even though you're in Computer Science? Nobody's stopping you.

The freedom hits different when you realize you can literally just... not go to class. (I mean, check your syllabus first, some profs take attendance like it's their personal mission). But

technically? You could skip your 8:30am lecture to get caf food with that person from your residence floor. Not saying you should, but the fact that you can is both liberating and mildly concerning.

## That Time I Thought I Was Good at Math

Okay, a bit of context, I came to UNBC absolutely crushing high school math. Like, I'm talking 90s without breaking a sweat. So naturally, I walked into my first MATH 100 midterm with the confidence of someone who'd never been humbled by university.

52%.

Fifty. Two. Percent.

My friends literally laughed when I told them. Not in a mean way but then they got their results back. One failed. Another barely scraped by with a 48%. Suddenly we were all just staring at our papers like "what... what just happened?"

Then it hit me, this isn't high school 2.0. Nobody's reminding you about assignments.

The prof isn't checking if you understood yesterday's material before moving on. You're juggling meal planning, laundry, maybe a part-time job, trying to make friends, AND somehow learning calculus at warp speed.

## The Social Side (Because We're Not Robots)

Speaking of finding your people, UNBC's social scene is... well, it's what you make of it. We're not UBC with their 50,000 students and endless clubs for left-handed ukulele players who also like vintage stamps. But we've got our own thing going.

In the end university hits different than high school, and not always in the ways you expect. But you'll also figure it out. We all do, eventually. Some of us just take the scenic route through a few failed midterms and questionable dining hall combinations first.

Welcome to UNBC. It's weird here, but like, in a good way (mostly).

# Hey First-Years, Let's Talk Timberwolves (And Why You Should Actually Care)

OTE TEAM

Okay, so you're probably drowning in orientation info right now and someone just told you about the Timberwolves and you're like "cool, sports, whatever", but hear me out for a sec.

## Our Furry Athletic Representatives

The UNBC Timberwolves are our varsity teams, basketball and soccer (both men's and women's) competing in Canada West/U Sports. Translation: legit athletes playing against other universities across Western Canada, not just intramural teams arguing about whether that was actually a foul.

## Why You Should Actually Show Up

I didn't go to a single game my first semester because I thought sports weren't "my thing." Then I discovered that Timberwolves games are basically social events where basketball or soccer happens to be playing in the background. Most regular season games are FREE for students (yes, actually free), and you don't need to understand the rules. Half the crowd is there for the vibes anyway.

Basketball happens in the Northern Sport Centre, and soccer's at Masich Place Stadium. Indoor basketball games in January = solid excuse to escape your dorm when it's -30 outside.

## Finding Out When Stuff Actually Happens

This is where I save your social life. We literally just launched this new calendar system on the UNBC website that has EVERYTHING, Timberwolves games, events happening in Prince George, club meetings, you name it. We've even got a repository of every club on campus.

No more finding out about cool events three days later through someone's Instagram story. Just bookmark that calendar and check it when you're bored in class (I mean, during your study break, obviously).

## Real Talk

I know "school spirit" can feel forced when you're still figuring out if you even like it here (it's okay if you're not sure yet, I cried like three times my first month). But showing up to games is less about rah-rah pride and more about finding your people.

You don't have to become a super fan or paint your face green and gold. But maybe check out that calendar, find a game that fits your schedule, and just see what it's about. Worst case? You spend an hour somewhere that isn't the library. Best case? Free entertainment, potential friends,

and when we beat schools with way bigger programs? Chef's kiss.

Welcome to UNBC, first-years. The Timberwolves are waiting for you (in the least threatening way possible for a team named after apex predators)



Ahmad Jalil Alpha and Mr.PG, an Unlikely friendship

# So We Crunched All the RateMyProf Data and... Yeah

AHMAD JALIL

Hey there! So remember when you're picking classes and you immediately hit up RateMyProf like it's some kind of sacred text? Well, we had this brilliant idea (I think?) to scrape all the UNBC prof ratings and actually analyze them by faculty. You know, for science. Or procrastination. Honestly, at this point, I can't remember which.

We were really hoping to find something spicy - like maybe the Business faculty was secretly crushing it while Engineering was in shambles, or vice versa. Some kind of faculty beef we could exploit for content, you know? But here's the thing about data analysis: sometimes you spend hours sorting professors into their faculties (why doesn't UNBC have a clear way to see departments) only to discover that... everyone's basically the same.

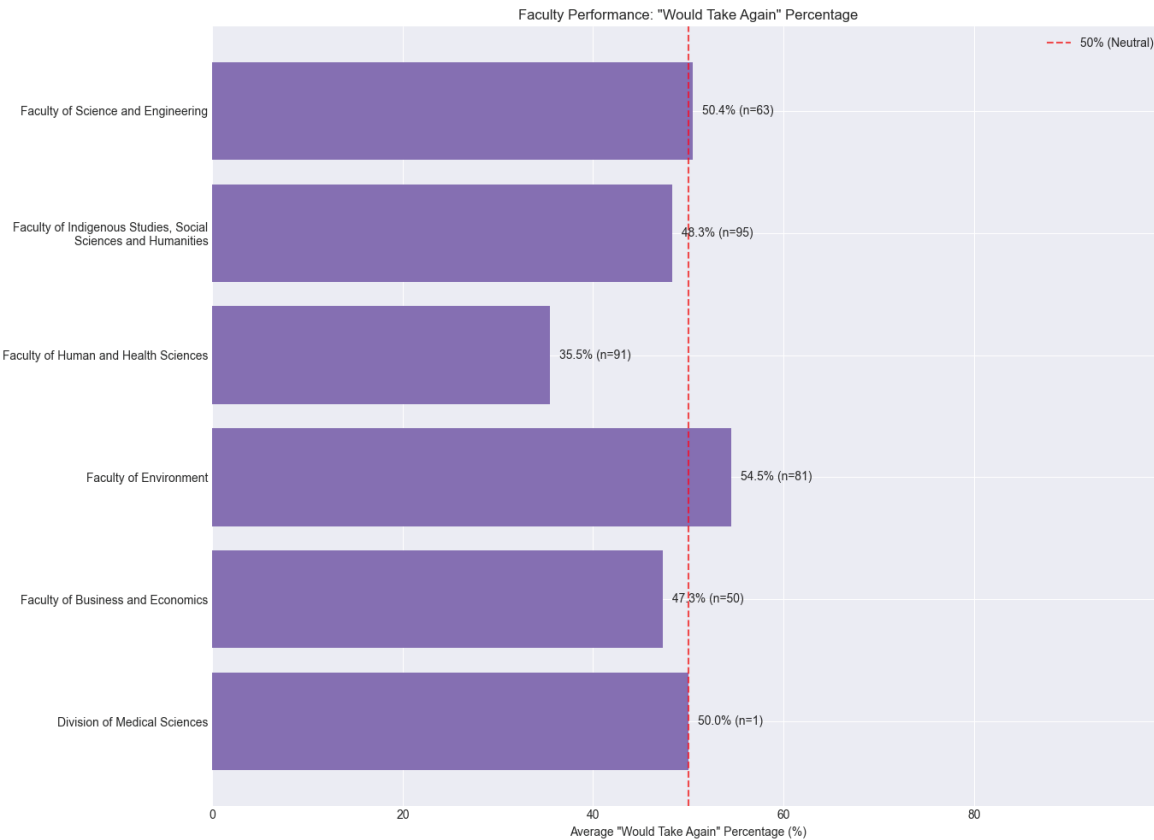
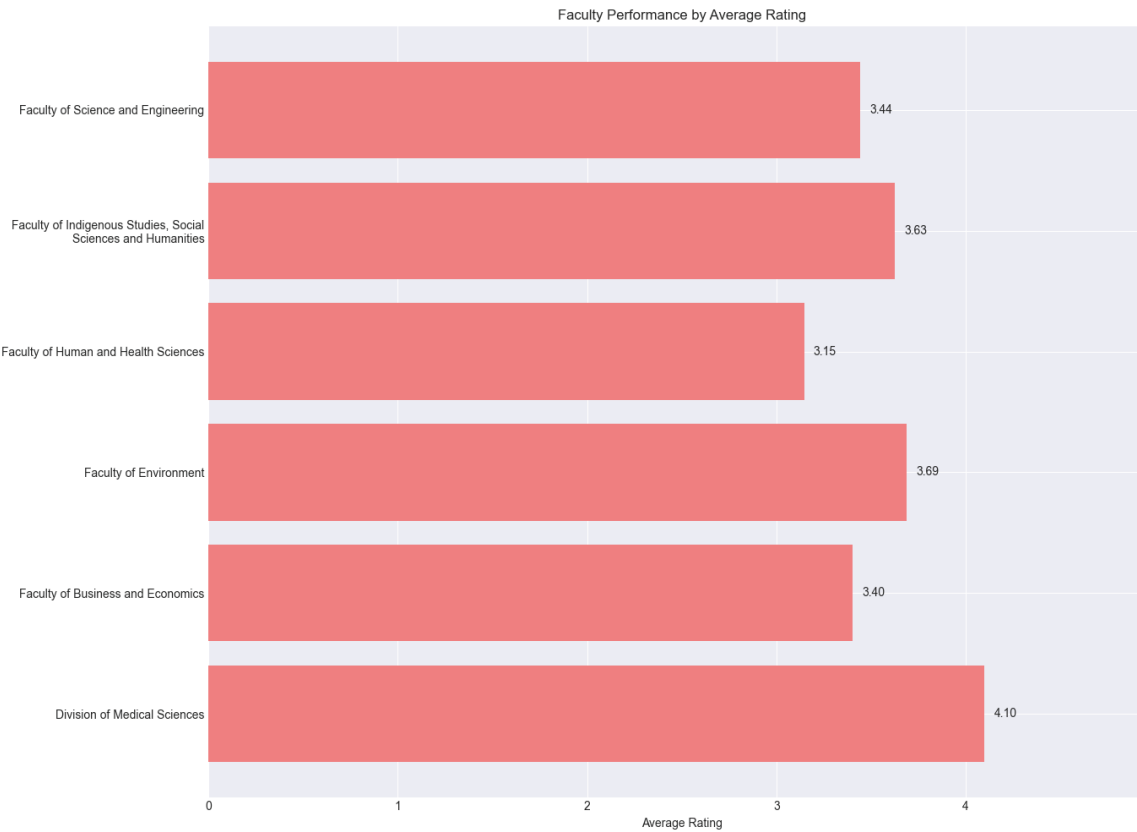
Look at these ratings - they range from 3.15 to 4.10. That's like the difference between a B and a B+. Revolutionary stuff, right? The Division of Medical Sciences technically "wins" with their 4.10, but with literally one person responding to the "would take again" question, I'm not sure we can call that a victory lap.

The "would take again" percentages are even more hilarious - they're all hovering around 50%, give or take. It's literally a coin flip for most faculties. Environmental Studies is slightly above at 54.5%, and Human and Health Sciences is playing hard to get at 35.5%, but honestly? These differences are about as significant as choosing between Tim's medium and large coffee (it's all caffeine in the end).

Here's what I actually learned from this whole exercise: RateMyProf is kind of like horoscopes. We all check it, we all pretend it matters, but deep down we know that whether you enjoy a class depends way more on whether you slept the night before, if you actually like the subject, or if your crush is in that lecture. The ratings are so subjective that one person's "worst prof ever" is another person's "changed my life" mentor.

The real takeaway? Stop stressing so much about professor ratings. Half the people would take the class again, half wouldn't - those are basically the odds for any life decision at this age. Should I eat dining hall pizza for the third time this week? 50/50. Should I join that club that meets at 8am on Saturdays? Also 50/50 (but probably no).

The truth is, you're going to have good profs and not-so-good profs regardless of what faculty you're in. The data says we're all in this together, suffering at roughly equal rates across all departments. There's something beautifully democratic about that, isn't there?



# Never Miss Out Again: Over the Edge Launches All-in-One Campus Events Hub

OTE TEAM

**Your one-stop destination for everything happening on campus and around town is finally here**

Tired of finding out about amazing campus events after they've already happened? The team at Over the Edge has been working behind the scenes to solve this problem, and we're excited to finally share what we've built.

Our new integrated calendar and club system brings together everything you need to stay connected with campus life. The platform features three key components that make it a game-changer for students:

**Complete Campus Coverage:** Every Timberwolves sporting event, club meeting, and campus activity is now in one place. No more checking multiple websites or missing that intramural signup deadline.

**Local Events Integration:** We've expanded beyond campus to include events happening around town. From concerts to community activities, you'll discover opportunities you

never knew existed. Even our own staff have been surprised, who knew "Glow Golf" was a thing?

**Club Directory:** Whether you're looking to join something new or want to see what your friends are up to, our comprehensive club repository makes it easy to explore all the organizations on campus.

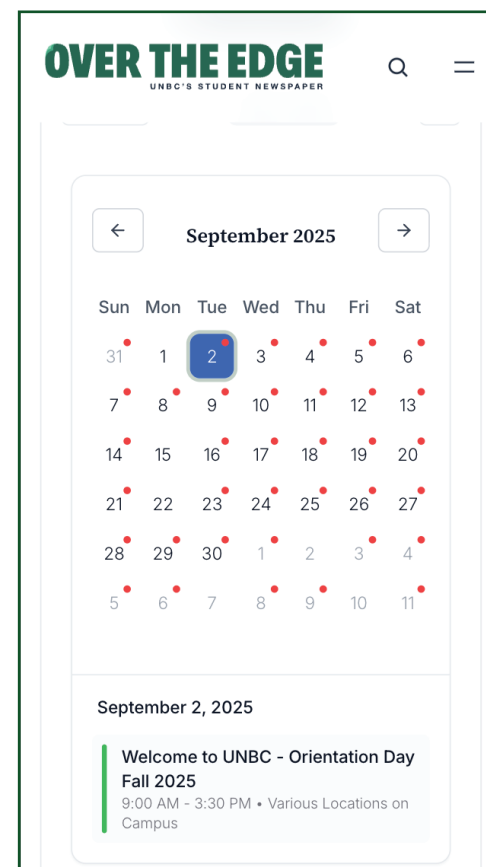
The system has been months in the making, and we chose now to launch it because, let's face it, we could all use more reasons to get out and connect with our community.

Ready to never miss out again? Check out the new system:

- **Browse Clubs:** <https://overtheedge.unbc.ca/clubs/>

- **View Calendar:** <https://overtheedge.unbc.ca/calendar/>

Whether you're a first-year looking to get involved or a senior wanting to try something new before graduation, this platform puts every opportunity at your fingertips



## Our Board 2025-2026

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**PARNIYA**

DIRECTOR

**AHMAD**

EDITOR IN CHIEF



**BRUCE**

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OVER THE EDGE?**

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**OVER THE EDGE**  
UNBC'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER





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# NBCGSS - Welcome to UNBC Graduate Life: Your NBCGSS Guide

BY BRUCE DANESH

Ready to make the most of your graduate studies at UNBC? The Northern British Columbia Graduate Students' Society (NBCGSS) is here to support, advocate for, and connect you with nearly 600 fellow grad students. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook (@NBCGSS) to stay in the loop!

**Detective Wolf Treasure Hunt: Your First Adventure**

New to campus? Start with our Detective Wolf Treasure Hunt (September 3-26)! Explore UNBC, collect stickers from key locations like the Counselling Centre and Academic Success Centre, and learn about essential campus services. Complete the hunt to:

- Win one of 10 prize bags worth \$100
- Get enrolled in money-saving services (like the Deals App)
- Receive your welcome kit with NBCGSS swag
- Join us for Grad Pizza Night on September 26 for the final draw

Pick up your treasure map at our office (Room 7-168) between 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

**Who We Are**

NBCGSS has represented UNBC graduate students since 1997. With an annual budget of over \$300,000, we manage everything from health coverage to social events and professional development. As members of the BC Federation of Students since 2016, we connect you to over 130,000 students across the province, amplifying your voice in graduate student advocacy.

**What We Offer**

**Financial Benefits:**

- Deals App: Student discounts on everyday expenses
- Health & Dental Plan: Comprehensive coverage through Studentcare
- U-Pass: Unlimited access to Prince George's transit and public pools
- Emergency Bursary: Up to \$250 per academic year for members in need
- Legacy Scholarships: Two \$500 awards for academic excellence
- Printing Credits: \$5 semester credit for your PaperCut account

**Campus Resources:**

- Graduate Lounge: 24/7 access to our space in TL 10-3016
  - Welcome Kit: Free handbook, day planner, and useful items
  - Legal Assistance: Unlimited phone consultations
  - Food Bank: Confidential service with culturally appropriate options (halal, vegetarian, kosher, and diverse cultural choices)
- Visit [nbcgss.unbc.ca/services](http://nbcgss.unbc.ca/services) for complete details.

**Meet Your Team**

Your Elected Board of Directors (paid positions, up to 30 hours/month):

- Sriparna Dey, Chairperson ([gsspres@unbc.ca](mailto:gsspres@unbc.ca)): Master's in Development Economics student and your voice to university administration
- Omar Akbar Sraban, Events & Communication ([gssevents@unbc.ca](mailto:gssevents@unbc.ca)): Natural event organizer focused on vibrant, inclusive campus life
- Lina Shehata, EDI & Welfare ([gssdiversity@unbc.ca](mailto:gssdiversity@unbc.ca)): Applied Science student, Food Bank Manager, and Board of Governors representative
- Vishnukumar Sharma, External Relations ([gssexternal@unbc.ca](mailto:gssexternal@unbc.ca)): MBA student building partnerships and opportunities
- Alana LaMalice, Indigenous Students' Affairs ([gssindigenous@unbc.ca](mailto:gssindigenous@unbc.ca)): K'at'l'odeeche First Nation member and MSW student
- Alireza Noory, Internal Relations ([gssdal@unbc.ca](mailto:gssdal@unbc.ca)): PhD student in Natural Resources focused on enhancing student experiences

**Staff Team:**

- Rozanna Rosarydasan, Executive Director: Your main contact for questions and support
- Administrative Team: Dumebi, Ramin, Zeerak, and Behrouz provide daily operational support

**Key 2025 Dates**

- September 3-26: Detective Wolf Treasure Hunt and Pizza Night (Sept. 26)
- October: Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- January: Student Week with paid volunteer opportunities

- February: Election nominations open
  - March: Board elections
  - April 1: New board term begins
- Get Involved**

**Earn While You Learn:** Board positions aren't just volunteer work—they're paid part-time jobs! Each director earns minimum wage for flexible hours (up to 30/month) while gaining leadership experience and managing a \$300,000+ budget.

**Other Opportunities:**

- Volunteer: Join our WhatsApp group (link in our Instagram bio)
- Staff Positions: Watch for paid openings (open to non-UNBC students too)
- Board Candidate: Run for election and shape graduate student life

**Stay Connected**

- Weekly Emails: Our primary communication to 600+ students
- Social Media: @NBCGSS on Instagram and Facebook
- Office Hours: Room 7-168 for drop-ins and questions
- Contact: [gsoffice@unbc.ca](mailto:gsoffice@unbc.ca)

Whether you need support, have questions, or want to get involved, NBCGSS is here for you throughout your graduate journey. We're excited to meet you and can't wait to see what this year brings!

Look for our weekly contributions to the student newspaper—you'll be hearing more from us soon!







# Steps to Complete the Treasure Hunt

- 1. Visit each map location to collect stickers and learn their services. At the grad lounge, scan the QR code and answer the questions
- 2. Return to the NBCGSS office with your completed maze, enroll in services with admins, drop it in the draw box, and collect your swag bag
- 3. All new and returning students of 2025 will be eligible to participate and win \$100 worth of 10 hampers
- 4. Join **Grad Pizza Night on Sep 26 at 6 PM** at Classroom 5-175 to be a possible winner. Await the draw!!!

## CHECKLIST

- To give out:
- Issue of Health and Dental card
  - Access to Graduate Lounge
  - Welcome Kit (Swag with bottle/mug)
- To Sign Up (Mandatory):
- Join Deals App – Student Discount
  - Empower Me – Mental Health
  - Paper Cut Printing Services
  - UMO – Transit Pass – Info
  - Recreation (Gym & Aquatic) – Info
- Social Media:
- NBCGSS Instagram
  - NBCGSS Facebook
  - NBCGSS Twitter
  - NBCGSS YouTube

# DETECTIVE WOLF TREASURE HUNT

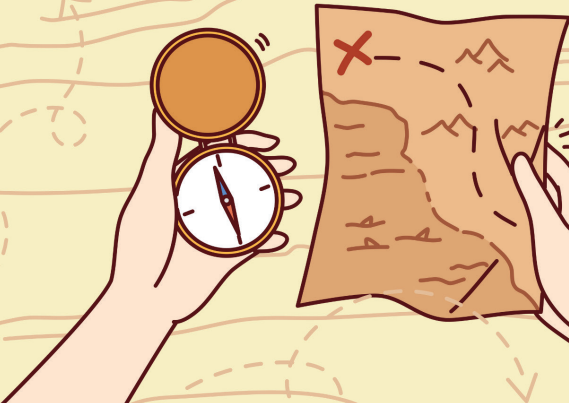


SEP 3<sup>rd</sup> TO SEP 26<sup>TH</sup>  
9:30 AM- 3:30 PM

DROP BY NBCGSS OFFICE (7-168)  
TO RECIEVE THE MAZE AND START  
OF YOUR ADVENTURE

This event is open to **all new**  
**and returning graduate students**

Win one of 10 Prize  
Bags worth \$100



Northern BC  
Graduate  
Student Society

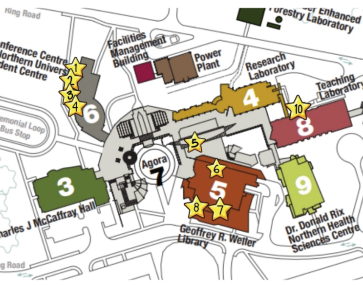
**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
2025-26**



## DETECTIVE WOLF Treasure Hunt

★ CFUR Radio Station (6-354)

★ Over The Edge (6-350)



★ PGPIRG (6-342)

★ Indigenous Research Studio (5-122)

★ Northern Women's Center

★ Academic Success Centre (Library 1<sup>st</sup> floor)

★ Grad Lounge (10-3013) → No Sticker here  
SCAN THE QR CODE  
★ NBCGSS Office (7-168) → Drop by the office  
when done

NAME:

UNBC Email:

STUDENT ID:



★ Counselling Center (5-168)

★ Medical Clinic (5-161)

# The Great Pizza Quest: A Slice-by-Slice Journey

AHMAD JALIL

### Introduction

Following our successful investigations into chicken tenders and burgers, our intrepid team of student taste-testers has turned its attention to perhaps the most sacred of all campus foods: pizza. Late-night study sessions, weekend hangouts, and post-exam celebrations all revolve around this circular beacon of hope. But in a town saturated with pizza options, which establishment truly deserves your hard-earned student dollars?

Armed with scoring sheets, empty stomachs, and a commitment to scientific rigor that would make our statistics professors proud, we embarked on a two-day odyssey across 13 pizza establishments. Our mission: to definitively crown the pizza champion of our campus community.

### Methodology

#### The Test Parameters

To ensure scientific validity and minimize variables, we established strict testing protocols:

- Pizza Type: Pepperoni only - the universal standard across all establishments
- Crust: Regular crust (no specialty options like stuffed or thin crust)
- Size: Smallest regular size available or single slices where applicable
- No Modifications: No extra toppings or special requests
- No Dipping Sauces: Pizzas were evaluated on their own merits, sans garlic sauce or ranch

#### The Evaluation Team

Our panel consisted of 4-5 dedicated student tasters who bravely consumed pizza for two consecutive evenings. All pizzas were picked up during evening hours and evaluated within 20 minutes of purchase to ensure optimal temperature and freshness.

### Scoring Criteria

Each pizza was meticulously evaluated on four key metrics using a 1-10 scale:

1. Cheesiness: The quality, quantity, and melt factor of the cheese
2. Doughiness: Crust texture, flavor, and structural integrity
3. Meatiness: Pepperoni distribution, flavor, and quality
4. Overall: The harmonious integration of all elements

### Notable Exclusions

Several establishments were excluded from our study:

- Tim Hortons and Costco: Their flatbread offerings, while tasty, didn't meet our definition of

traditional pizza

- Local Pubs: These establishments exist primarily as bars/social spaces rather than dedicated pizza purveyors
- Non-pizza chains: We focused exclusively on restaurants where pizza is the primary product

### Findings

#### The Champions Emerge

After two grueling days of consumption and calculation, Red Tomato Pies emerged victorious with an impressive 8.2/10 overall rating, earning a well-deserved A+ grade. Their pizza excelled across all metrics, with particularly high marks for cheesiness (scoring 0.89 correlation with overall satisfaction).

Prime Pizza secured a respectable second place with 7.1/10, followed by Tabor at 6.8/10. These top performers demonstrated that quality pizza doesn't have to break the bank - Red Tomato Pies offered excellent value at just \$0.263 per gram.

#### The Correlation Conundrum

Our statistical analysis revealed fascinating insights about what makes students love their pizza. Cheesiness showed the strongest correlation with overall satisfaction (0.89), followed closely by meatiness (0.87) and doughiness (0.86). This holy trinity of pizza perfection suggests that excellence requires mastery of all components - you can't just pile on cheese and call it a day.

### Value Propositions

The value analysis revealed some surprising winners and losers:

- Best Overall Value: 7-Eleven, despite its mediocre 4.0/10 taste rating, offered the best price per gram at \$0.144
- Premium Quality Zone: Red Tomato Pies and Prime Pizza occupied the sweet spot of high quality at reasonable prices
- Avoid Zone: Pizza Hut landed squarely in the danger zone - low quality (2.6/10) at mid-range prices (\$0.402/gram)
- Expensive But Good: Tabor commanded premium prices (\$0.531/gram) but delivered decent quality (6.8/10)

### The Bottom Dwellers

Fresh Slice and Pizza Hut brought up the rear with abysmal scores of 2.1/10 and 2.6/10 respectively. These pizzas failed across all metrics, proving that proximity to campus doesn't guarantee quality.

### Limitations and Considerations

It's important to note several limitations of our study:

1. Timing: All pizzas were picked up during evening hours, which may not represent peak quality times
2. Limited Scope: We tested only pepperoni pizzas - specialty pizzas might yield different results
3. No Delivery: We focused on pickup only, which doesn't account for delivery degradation

Sauce Prohibition: Our no-dipping-sauce rule may have disadvantaged establishments that rely on condiments to enhance their offerings

Furthermore, by day two, several testers reported "pizza fatigue," a phenomenon where the mere sight of another slice induced existential dread. This may have influenced later scores, though we randomized the testing order to minimize bias.

### The Bigger Picture

What our data ultimately reveals is a pizza landscape of stark contrasts. The correlation matrix shows that students value balance - a pizza that excels in one area but fails in others won't achieve greatness. The 95-gram slices from 7-Eleven might fill you up for cheap, but at what cost to your taste buds and dignity?

Meanwhile, the premium establishments prove that you don't always get what you pay for. Tabor's high prices didn't translate to proportional quality increases, while Red Tomato Pies delivered excellence without requiring a student loan.

### Conclusion

After 13 pizzas, countless antacids, and rigorous statistical analysis, Red Tomato Pies seems to have emerged as something that a consensus can be made on. Their combination of superior taste, reasonable pricing, and consistent quality across all metrics makes them the clear choice for discerning students.

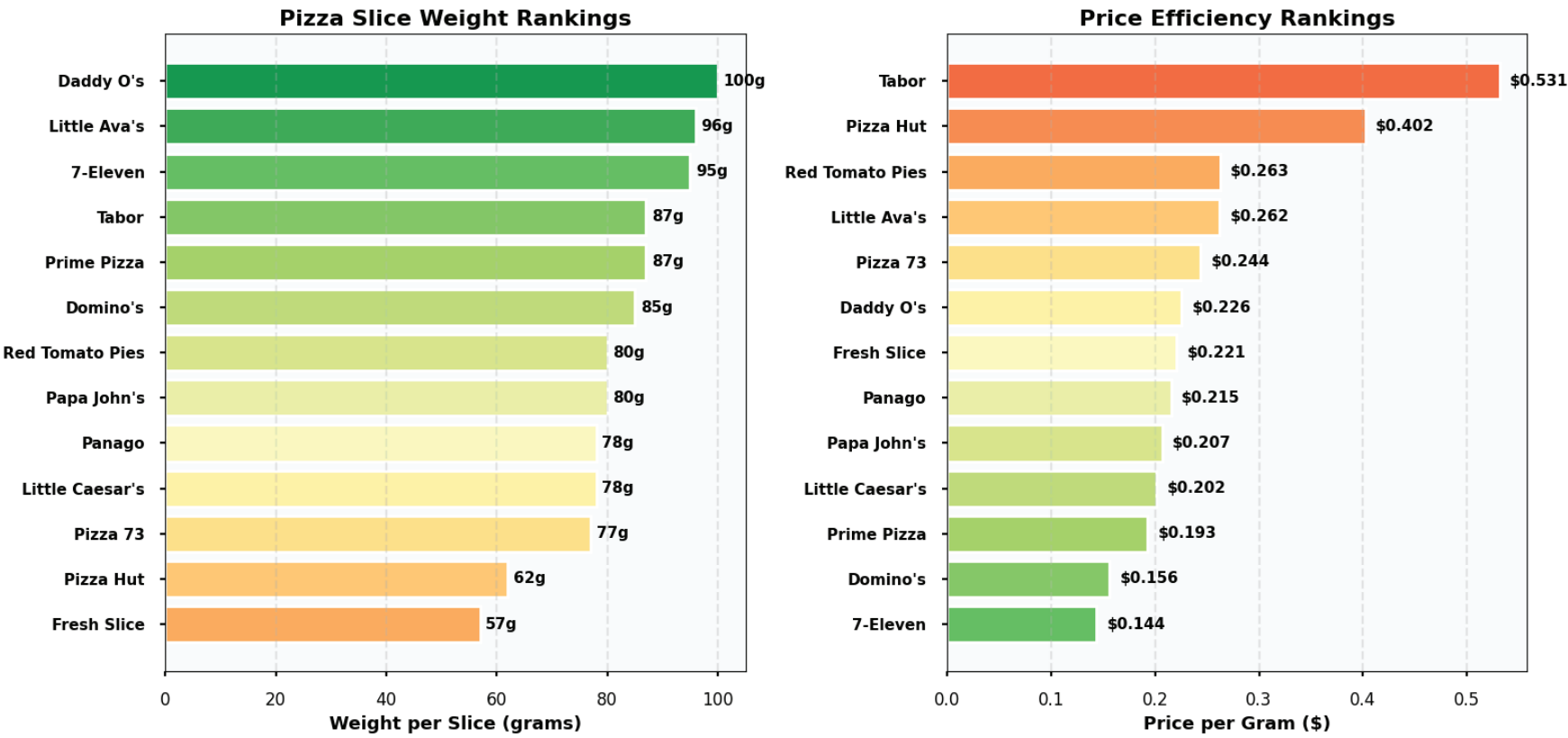
However, context matters. If you're broke and desperate at 2 AM, 7-Eleven's value proposition suddenly becomes more appealing.

Our advice? Use our comprehensive data to make informed decisions. The correlation matrix tells us that good pizza is about harmony, not extremes. The value matrix reminds us that price doesn't always equal quality. And the report card gives you the quick reference you need when hunger strikes and decision paralysis sets in.

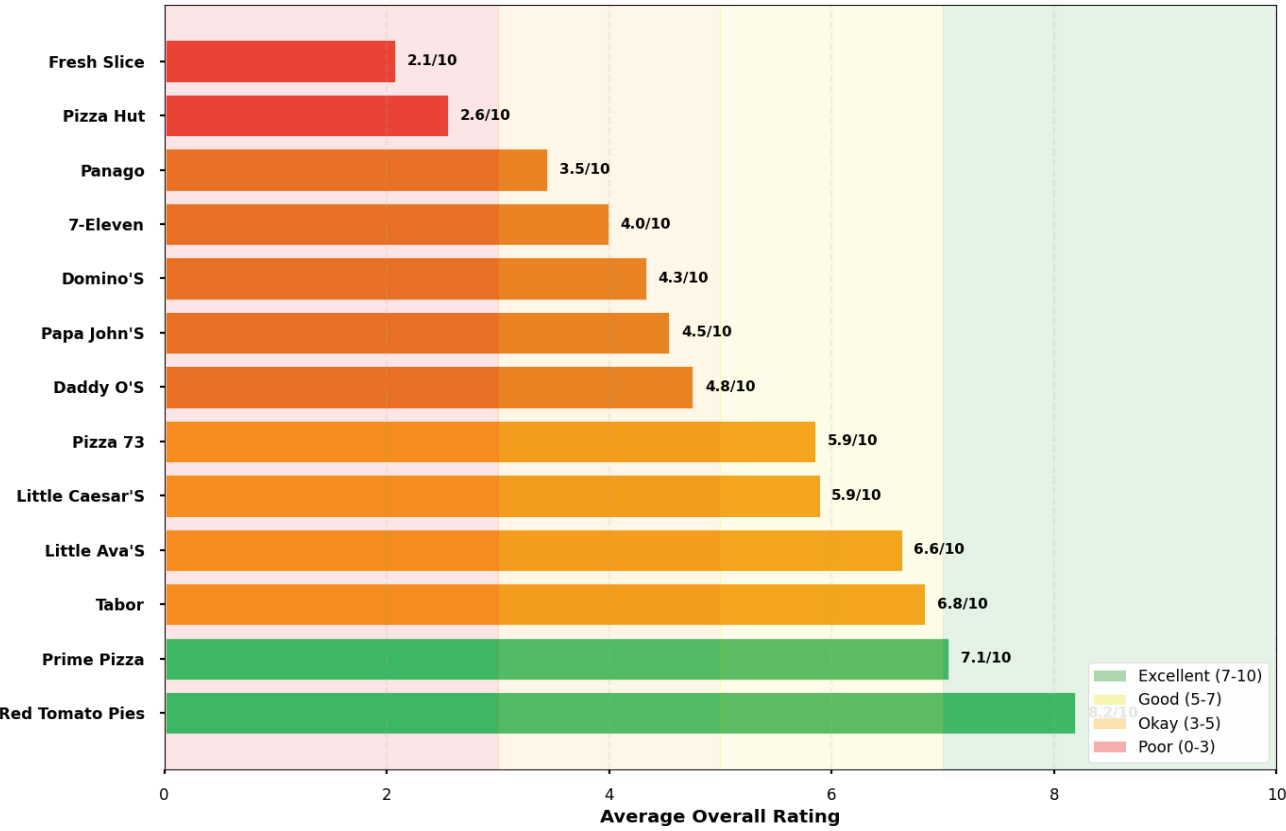
Remember, this study reflects only pepperoni pizzas picked up during evening hours. Your mileage may vary with different toppings, times, or dining experiences. But armed with our data, you're now equipped to navigate the complex pizza ecosystem of our campus community.



Pizza Economics: Size vs Price Analysis



Campus Pizza Power Rankings



# The Ultimate UNBC Study Spot Survival Guide

## OTE TEAM

Need a place to actually get work done? Whether your roommate's on their third viewing of *The Office* this week or your desk has disappeared under a mountain of... stuff, here's your insider guide to UNBC's best study spots.

**Building 10 (Teaching and Learning Centre): The Social Studier's Paradise**

This is where productivity meets people-watching. Each floor features open spaces perfect for group work or solo studying when you don't mind background noise. The trick is finding your ideal floor, some are chattier, others quieter. It's like Goldilocks, but for procrastination spaces.

**The Engineering Lounge (Building 10, Second Floor): The Opportunist's Dream**

Tucked away on the second floor of Building 10, this spot is either completely packed or gloriously empty, there's no in-between. When the engineers are in class or have migrated elsewhere for group projects, you've struck gold. Comfy seating, whiteboards for pretending you understand calculus, and an atmosphere that makes you feel smarter by osmosis. Just be prepared to evacuate when a swarm of engineering students arrives discussing things you don't understand.

**Geoffrey R. Weller Library: The Classic Choice**

The library follows a brilliant system: the higher you climb, the quieter it gets. By the fourth floor, you could hear a pin drop, perfect

for deep focus or terrifying if you need to sneeze.

Book those study rooms early. Nothing ruins your groove like someone knocking on the glass with that awkward "um, we reserved this?" gesture.

**The Winter Garden: The Hidden Gem**

Seriously underrated. Natural light, surprisingly resilient plants, and enough space to spread out all seventeen textbooks you definitely need open at once. This spot offers the perfect blend of nature and knowledge.

**Building 9 (Dr. Donald Rix Northern Health Sciences Centre): The Silent Sanctuary**

The medical building stays empty and QUIET, intimidatingly quiet. It's isolated, which means zero distractions. Just you, your work, and the vague pressure that future doctors studied here. You'll need a map to find it, but the peace is worth the hunt.

**Bentley Centre: The Wildcard**

At the end of Student Street, the corner spots work well enough. Without headphones, you might catch someone's loud phone conversation, but sometimes other people's drama is the study break you didn't know you needed.

**Random Tables Throughout Campus: The Nomad's Choice**

Between the Winter Garden and Student Street, you'll find tables with outlets scattered around. Perfect for spontaneous study sessions when inspiration strikes.

**The Cafeteria (Second Floor): The Controversial Choice**

Hear me out, if you have a meal plan, this is genius. All-you-can-eat means unlimited fuel for your study marathon without leaving your spot. The ambient noise actually helps some people focus.

The catch? Without a meal plan, bathroom breaks become expensive. You might have to pay to re-enter, which is... a choice the university made.

**The Bottom Line**

The best study spot is wherever you actually study instead of doom-scrolling for three hours. So grab your laptop charger, your emotional support water bottle, and go forth to pretend to be productive like the rest of us.





# UNBC Grading System

AHMAD JALIL

Hey there! So you're trying to wrap your head around UNBC's grading system and academic guidelines? Yeah, I remember staring at my first syllabus like it was written in ancient hieroglyphics. Let me break down the stuff that actually matters.

## THE GRADING SCALE (AKA THE 4.33 MYSTERY)

Okay, so UNBC decided to be special and use a 4.33 scale instead of the standard 4.0. I spent way too long trying to figure out why until I realized... it doesn't really matter why. What matters is knowing how it works:

- 90–100% = A+ (4.33)
- 85–89.9% = A (4.00)
- 80–84.9% = A- (3.67)
- 77–79.9% = B+ (3.33)
- 73–76.9% = B (3.00)
- 70–72.9% = B- (2.67)
- 67–69.9% = C+ (2.33)
- 63–66.9% = C (2.00)
- 60–62.9% = C- (1.67)
- 57–59.9% = D+ (1.33)
- 53–56.9% = D (1.00)
- 50–52.9% = D- (0.67)
- Below 50% = F (ouch)

Most courses need 50% to pass, but heads up some courses require a higher grade if you want to take the next course in the sequence. Like, you might need a C (63%) in a prerequisite to move on to the next level (I hate you, Intermediary Metabolism). Always check your program requirements, getting that D might mean you passed, but you'll be retaking it anyway if you need it for your major.

## THE OTHER GRADES

Here's where UNBC gets interesting. You might see:

- P (Pass) - You passed but it doesn't affect your GPA
- W (Withdrawn) - You noped out of the course (no GPA impact)
- AEG (Aegrotat) - Fancy Latin for "you had a valid reason to miss the final"

These are your GPA's neutral friends, they won't help, but they won't hurt either. A strategic W is sometimes better than tanking your average (trust me on this one).

## DATES THAT'LL MAKE OR BREAK YOUR SEMESTER

Mark these in your calendar, set seventeen alarms, tattoo them on your arm – whatever it takes:

For September 2025:

- Add/Drop deadline: September 18 – Last

day to bail without consequences or grab that course you've been eyeing

- Withdrawal deadline: October 24 – Your final escape hatch (you'll get a W but keep your GPA intact)

Speaking of calendars... have you checked out the new calendar system on the Over the Edge website? It's actually pretty sick that someone had the genius idea to aggregate basically everything happening in Prince George. Like, you can find club events, random community stuff. Plus there's a whole repository of campus clubs if you're trying to find your people.

## GPA: THE NUMBER THAT HAUNTS US ALL

You need a 2.0 CGPA (Cumulative GPA) to stay in good standing. Drop below that and you're on academic probation, which is about as fun as it sounds. Also, fun fact: you can't graduate while on probation, so... keep that 2.0+.

Calculating your GPA on the 4.33 scale feels weird at first, but it's just multiplication and division (I know, I know, we came to university to avoid math). Each course grade gets multiplied by its credit hours, add them all up, divide by total credit hours, and boom – there's your GPA.

## REAL TALK

Look, everyone struggles with this stuff at some

point. I've definitely had moments where I'm frantically googling "can I still pass if I got 47% on the midterm" at ungodly hours (spoiler: usually yes, but it requires doing actual math and possibly a minor miracle on the final).

The academic advisors are genuinely helpful humans who've seen it all – from "I accidentally dropped all my courses" to "I forgot I was registered in a class until finals week" (both real stories I've heard). They're located in the Student Services building, and no, they won't judge you for asking "obvious" questions.

Also, one or two W's on your transcript isn't the end of the world. I know someone who withdrew from organic chem twice and still got into med school (though maybe don't make it a habit).

## THE BOTTOM LINE

UNBC's grading system is quirky, but you'll figure it out. Keep track of those key dates, aim for above a 2.0, and remember that everyone else is just as confused as you are – we're just better at pretending we know what's going on.

And hey, when in doubt, that 4.33 scale means you can technically get above a 4.0 GPA, which sounds way more impressive than it actually is. Silver linings, right?

Question 1 (8 marks). Evaluate the following limits if they exist.

a)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow -2} \frac{t+2}{t^2-2t-8}$

$\frac{t+2}{t^2-2t-8} = \frac{(t+2)}{(t+2)(t-4)} = \frac{1}{t-4} \rightarrow \frac{1}{-2-4} = -\frac{1}{6}$

The limit as  $t \rightarrow -2$  is  $-\frac{1}{6}$

b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2-16}{\sqrt{x}-2}$

$\frac{x^2-16}{\sqrt{x}-2} = \frac{(x-4)(x+4)}{\sqrt{x}-2} = \frac{(x-4)(x+4)(\sqrt{x}+2)}{(\sqrt{x}-2)(\sqrt{x}+2)} = \frac{(x-4)(x+4)(\sqrt{x}+2)}{x-4} = (x+4)(\sqrt{x}+2)$

$= 8 \cdot 4 = 32$

c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln(x)$

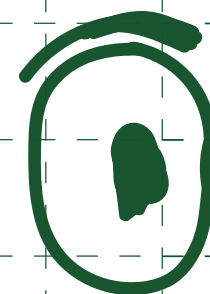
$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln(x) = -\infty$



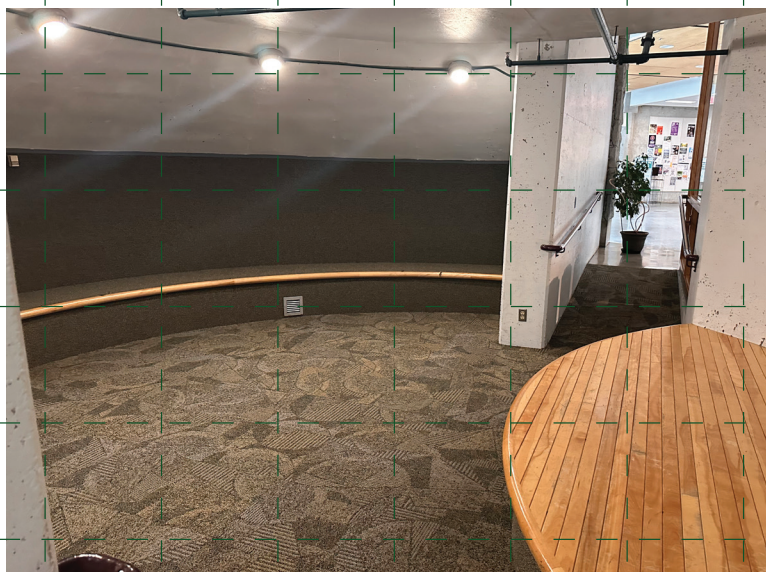
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STORE



BUILDING 10TH, TEACHING  
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BUILDING 7TH, AGORA,  
WINTER GARDEN



# Student Newspaper Proposes Alternative Design for UNBC ID Cards

## OTE TEAM

So, remember when I wrote about those new student ID cards last time? The ones that traded our vintage red-and-orange vibes for something that looked like it was designed by someone who really, really loves minimalism? Well, plot twist – we decided to take matters into our own hands.

I mean, look. The university gave us the whole “technical constraints” and “functional requirements” spiel, and I get it. I really do. But also... we’re a student newspaper. We run on energy drinks. If we can design something better between cramming for midterms and pretending we understand APA citations, then surely the actual university with its actual budget could do the same? (No shade, UNBC Communications team. Okay, maybe a little shade.)

The thing is, that old card with its warm reds and oranges? It had personality. It looked like it belonged to a northern university. The new one looks like it could be from literally any institution that discovered the color green exists. And before you tell me about being too harsh, I’m not saying it’s terrible. It’s just... underwhelming? Like ordering poutine and getting plain fries with a side of

gravy.

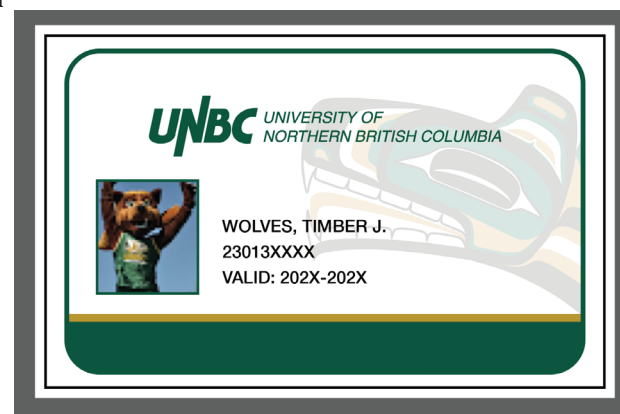
Our design keeps that UNBC spirit while still being, you know, functional. We didn’t reinvent the wheel – we just made it roll with a bit more style. And honestly? The process made me realize something. Sometimes institutions get so caught up in committees and approval processes and “stakeholder consultations” (whatever that means) that they forget the simple question: does this actually look good?

I’m not trying to start a revolution here. (Though if anyone wants to start a “Bring Back Character to Campus Design” movement, I’m absolutely down.) It’s just funny how sometimes the people actually using these things daily – us students – might have some decent ideas about what we’d like to carry around for four-plus years.

The current ID does its job. It tells security you belong here, it gets you into buildings, it holds your embarrassing first-year photo that you’ll cringe at for eternity. But couldn’t it do all that while also not looking like it was designed by someone who just discovered the rectangle tool in Photoshop?

When I originally talked to Matt Wood from Communications about the new design (fun fact: he’s now living his best life in New Zealand, which honestly, good for him), he mentioned they were open to revisiting things in the future. But here’s the thing, the future is now, and we already did the revisiting for them.

In the meantime, I’ll be carrying my new ID around, mourning the loss of those sunset colors. You stay classy UNBC.



## Attached to Change

### JHOAN CHAVEZ SUAZO

Over ten semesters at UNBC, I’ve worn many hats: student representative for the Faculty of Environment, senator at UNBC Senate, and volunteer with organizations like PGPIRG, ELC, and UNAC. Each role gave me a front-row seat to how decisions are made—and sometimes, how they’re not.

#### Learning the System from the Inside

Governance at UNBC is a mix of good intentions and policy gaps. In the Faculty of Environment, we debated scholarship criteria beyond GPA, pushing for more inclusive factors like nationality, gender, and representation. While change is slow, I saw real progress.

Senate, however, often felt like a formality. Here’s what most students don’t know: the real discussions happen in faculty committees. Senate frequently just approves what’s already been decided. If you want to push for change, start with your faculty—that’s where the magic happens.

There’s even confusion about student roles themselves. Am I a “senator” or just a “student rep”? The title sparked debate in meetings, and I sometimes felt this ambiguity was used to downplay student participation. Regardless of the label, I made sure to say what needed to be said.

#### Making Change Through Volunteer Work

Outside governance, my volunteer work revealed both problems and solutions on campus:

**PGPIRG:** We ran a confidential survey exploring equity, diversity, and inclusion that revealed serious misconduct, especially harassment. Current policies are vague, and students often face multiple rounds of questioning before cases are elevated. While the Residence Manager for Residence and Restorative Relations offers 24/7 support, we clearly need more comprehensive resources.

**ELC (Eco Living Community):** We addressed food security and wildlife conservation while improving student wellbeing through programs like Climate Cooking. Returning and new students should definitely check it out this semester.

**UNAC:** I helped keep conversations about Sustainable Development Goals alive on campus.

These experiences taught me that volunteering isn’t just about giving back—it’s about actively shaping the campus we want.

#### Your Turn to Get Attached

Here’s my pitch: get attached to change, to governance, and to the idea that your voice

matters.

Consider roles like Director of EDI at NBCGSS or NUGSS, join PGPIRG’s board, or get involved with the Women’s Centre. Yes, these are volunteer positions, but they’re also opportunities to grow, lead, and strengthen your resume.

The university won’t open doors unless you knock. Don’t wait for opportunities—create them. Step up, speak out, and stay attached to the change you want to see.

*All the best to those who follow.*





## Is UNBC's Sustainable Event Certification Setting the Bar Too High, Or Just Grading Its Own Homework?



UNBC Event Receiving a Sustainability Certificate

By Anonymous

UNBC recently launched its Sustainable Event Certification program, adapted from McGill University's model. While the initiative's environmental goals are admirable, several aspects of the program raise questions about its effectiveness and credibility.

The Self-Certification Problem

The most glaring issue? UNBC is both issuing and receiving these certifications. Of the five events listed as participants, UNBC Sustainability itself organized the flagship event that achieved platinum status. When an institution grades its own sustainability efforts, can we truly call this an independent certification? While there may be genuine oversight and standards in place, the optics alone undermine the program's credibility to outside observers.

Bronze or Bust: A Counterproductive Starting Point

The certification begins at bronze level, requiring 50-75% of available points. But here's the problem: if your event scores below 50%, you receive no certification at all. This creates a perverse incentive where organizers might prefer no certification over a bronze one, which could be seen as barely passing.

Wouldn't it make more sense to start certifications at a lower threshold, say 25%, to encourage participation? As it stands, the message seems to be: be exceptionally sustainable or don't bother trying. For a program meant to encourage environmental responsibility, this all-or-nothing approach could actually discourage organizers from making incremental improvements.

Platinum's Prohibitive Standards  
The platinum tier requires 95% of points plus three additional criteria, including options like "exclusive provision of vegan and vegetarian options" and "zero-waste" standards. While aspirational, these requirements may be unrealistic for many campus events, particularly those serving diverse communities with varying dietary needs and budgets.

Moving Forward

UNBC's sustainability goals deserve support, but this certification program needs refinement. Consider external validation, lower entry barriers to encourage participation, and more achievable incremental goals. Otherwise, we risk creating a system where only the most resourced events can participate, while everyone else opts out entirely.

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# The Traditions that Ground you aren't Distractions from Your Studies...

EMMA GRYG

I'm from Northern Ontario, Sault Ste. Marie, to be exact. I didn't grow up there, but it is the place I have called home from an early age. My mother, being a teacher, brought me north in the summers to her hometown. We spent the summer at "camp"—not to be confused with the southern "cottage." A cabin built in 1973 on the shores of Lake Superior. The exterior is painted in a classic Finnish red that many buildings adorn in the Scandinavian region. The walls are lined with red pine panels, glazed in a warm lacquer. The old propane lamps and fridge from the early 1960s are still there, in case the intricate solar system my grandfather installed in his 80s fails. A moose hide hangs from the wall behind my favourite chair, a brown and white plaid mid-century modern armchair that's been kneaded into an utter black hole of comfort over the years. From this spot I can see the lake. Oh, the lake—how do I even begin?

The shores of Lake Superior have enveloped the hearts of artists, poets, and photographers, all attempting to capture the indescribable power and beauty of its shores and waters. If you've ever spent time on its waters, you'd know the formidable and humbling presence it brings. A sudden change in winds can turn the water from glassy to treacherous in as little as five minutes. Beneath its surface swim ancient fish, sometimes washing ashore or surfacing for air. Its many islands, inlets, and coves hold stories and provoke curiosity; several are difficult to reach on foot, but worth the excursion. Most of all, it is a place where, even in the harshest of conditions, I find peace.

In my younger years, I spent my summers here, rushing from the sauna to the lake, over, and over, and over, until dinner—at which point I would battle my eyelids to stay awake. The sauna, in our Finnish

culture, is not just a place to bathe. It's a kind of temple, a place of spirit, healing, and presence. I often visualize my anxiety, fears, stress, or negative emotions leaving my body before jumping in the lake to wash them away. The lake water—cold, crisp and unfathomably clear—holds my body up. I lie on my back and float, hearing nothing but my own pulse, feeling nothing but the water supporting me, removing the weight of everyday life. I feel present and grateful.

When I moved to Prince George, I knew I would miss home. The people I care deeply about are all located in Ontario, and as many of us do, I feared that age and illness would be lurking while I am away. But as our society says, we need to "follow opportunity" and "chase the money," and I had been presented with several opportunities to build a career. Though in the midst of chasing goals, I found myself preoccupied rather than present, as the ongoing to-do list circled my brain.

By the time I wrote my exams and defended my proposal, I was drained. The stress and anxiety had built and constructed themselves in the form of what I'll call "graduate burnout." The energy and time put into attaining perfectionism—which can never be accomplished—comes at a cost. We often talk about how graduate school is isolating, separating us from friends and family as we work away at our degrees and exams. What we don't talk about are the other aspects of isolation that can come with graduate studies.

Isolation has many dimensions. For those who have come from afar, it can mean isolation from your community and the place you call home. I found this manifested as a feeling of uprootedness, a disconnection from the new community I live in. It can also manifest as isolation from the natural world—as much of my research occurs indoors, I find myself thinking of the water and forests, the places where I could release my stress and anxiety. There is also a degree of isolation from one's own culture, as daily practices are set aside, adding to the feeling of physical distance from family. In the end, I felt like a tree toppled by the wind, unable to ground myself in my research and life's goals.

To refill that draining well, I sought to reconnect not only with family and friends, but also with the small traditions and practices that connected me to my Finnish culture. I needed to experience the things that have shaped me into who I am. I spent many days picking berries, a tradition my family has practiced over several generations, bringing back memories of the small pothole lakes we'd cool off in, where the minnows would nibble on your toes. I spent more time in the forest, remembering stories my grandfather shared of his many years hunting and fishing in northern Ontario. I recently spent time at the Nechako River fishing for sockeye, admiring the community of people helping one another and



Emma Gryg

Pulla braids and a berry lattice — small Finnish traditions that honor culture and keep studies meaningful.

sharing their fishing tips, reminding me of why I chose and love to live in a northern community. Most of all, I spent as much time as I could in the water, floating and closing my eyes, releasing past and future tension and staying present with my own pulse.

Like the water washing away stress and anxiety, I let these practices fill me with good emotions, knowledge, and memories accumulated over many years. These not only grounded me in my heritage, but also in the memories and experiences from my childhood. These small acts reminded me that it is who I am that drives me to do my research—and they renewed my promise to protect the waters that have cared for me throughout my life.

If you're like me, feeling unrooted and disconnected, it's okay. Disconnection and isolation are not just one thing, but a layered experience. If you find yourself immersed in these feelings and thoughts, I would like to offer you some guidance for your graduate journey.

There is power in small, intentional actions—like berry picking, spending time in the forest, or fishing. These aren't grand gestures, but quiet returns to what matters. Find ways to honour your culture and background by engaging your senses: the smells and tastes of familiar foods, the feeling of familiar textures, the sounds of your heritage. Consider what small practices might connect you to who you were before graduate school began to reshape you.

Most importantly, remember that there is a relationship between your identity and your purpose. Nurturing who you are will, in turn, support your academic work. The traditions that ground you aren't distractions from your studies; they're the foundation that makes your work meaningful.



Emma Gryg

Lake Superior "camp", a grounding place where sauna-to-lake rituals wash away stress and invite presence.



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