



THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS OUTLET

# GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## THE BASICS

- Since 2005, the Fulcrum Publishing Society (FPS) has been the non-profit corporation operating the *Fulcrum* news outlet
- The Board of Directors is the governing body of the FPS, made up of students, alumni, and community volunteers
- We represent the interests of uOttawa students and provide financial, legal, HR, and strategic oversight to help the news outlet to do what it does best
- We are not involved in the *Fulcrum*'s editorial affairs



## JOIN OUR TEAM!

- Most directors are elected at the corporation's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April for a 1-year term, but others are appointed during the year
- We'd love to hear from you at [president@thefulcrum.ca](mailto:president@thefulcrum.ca)

# MEET THE 2023-24 BOARD



**Keelan Buck**  
President

Keelan Buck first joined the Board of Directors in June 2022 and serves as President of the FPS and Chair of the Governance Committee for the current term. After writing with the *Fulcrum* during his undergrad, he is eager to continue contributing to the organization's wellbeing and sustainability in a leadership role. Keelan holds an M.A. in public administration from the University of Ottawa and works for Canada's House of Commons as an expert in parliamentary procedure. Born and raised in Ottawa, Keelan loves supporting the small businesses, services, and creators that bring his hometown alive. If you don't find him with a book (or notebook) in hand, then he's probably out for a walk.



**Emma Godmere**  
Chair of the Board

Emma Godmere is Chair of the Board of Directors, first elected to hold the *Fulcrum* Alumna seat in 2022. She's a radio producer in CBC's Parliamentary Bureau, currently part of the team bringing *The House* to national airwaves every Saturday morning (which only occasionally requires the use of a hard hat) — and previously produced the *Party Lines* podcast. Before returning to her hometown, she spent seven years at CBC in Toronto, writing and producing interviews on *Q* with Tom Power and guest-hosting shows on CBC Music and Radio 3. But she started her journalism career at the *Fulcrum*, first as News Editor and then Editor-in-Chief, and is grateful for the opportunity to give back.

# MEET THE 2023-24 BOARD



**Chaymaa Nadi**  
Secretary

Chaymaa Nadi was appointed to the FPS Board of Directors in September 2022 as a student representative. As a fourth-year communication student, this role provides her with valuable governance and strategic experience within the organization. Representing the interests of her fellow students allows Chaymaa to advocate for them and ensure their voices are reflected in the FPS's strategic priorities. Chaymaa sees this role as a meaningful opportunity to contribute to her community and make a positive impact during her studies. Through her service on the Board, Chaymaa aims to help shape the direction of the FPS in a way that enriches the organization's work and benefits students for years to come.



**Ria Kunkulol**  
Treasurer

Ria Kunkulol is a third-year student at the University of Ottawa studying for her Honours Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting. She currently works for the Government of Canada at PSPC as an accounts receivable clerk, and as a literacy tutor through the Learning Disabilities Association of Ottawa-Carleton. After rewatching *Gilmore Girls* one too many times, she finally applied for a role at the FPS. This is her first year on the Board of Directors, appointed as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. She loves to read, do the NYT crossword puzzle, and find new bike paths in Ottawa.

# MEET THE 2023-24 BOARD



**Mark Asfar-Flood**  
Director

Mark Asfar-Flood has been serving on the FPS Board of Directors since 2022. Mark is a lawyer living and working in the Ottawa region. He practises corporate law and works with a wide range of clients, including startups, local businesses, and not-for-profits. Prior to coming to Ottawa he studied at Queen's University where he got his Bachelor's degree in history followed by his law degree. While at Queen's he was heavily involved in campus extracurricular life and student government, including serving as a board member for the university's student newspaper, the *Queen's Journal*. He is thrilled to use his broad experience to continue to support the *Fulcrum* and its staff. When not in board meetings, Mark can be found on walks in Ottawa's parks with his wife and adorable chocolate labrador, Paddington.

**Avesta Alani**  
Director

Avesta Alani is a licensed lawyer in Ontario with three years of private practice experience. Currently, she is in-house counsel at the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). Avesta is the author of *Diffability: The Liberation of Potential*, and the winner of the Celebrations of Peoples Award. Avesta graduated with an Honours in International Development and Globalization with a Minor in Philosophy from the University of Ottawa and a JD law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School.



## STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

- Reviewing FPS core documents (By-Law, Policy Manual, Editorial Constitution), identifying areas to be reviewed, and planning review and amendment processes
- Reflecting on the organization's mission and direction in light of significant environmental changes (new reality of work, changing media landscape, unpredictability)

## MARKETING & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Leading an engagement survey project in collaboration with other small media to better understand the changing needs and expectations of our audiences and communities
- Reflecting on and responding to the impacts of the *Online News Act* and the related actions of web/SM giants

# WHAT WE'RE UP TO

## FINANCE AND AUDIT

- Exploring the diversification of revenue sources to ensure long-term financial sustainability
- Planning future budgets to align with strategic priorities and evolving operational needs
- Working with external auditors to meet our obligations and be a role model in transparency and best practices

## HUMAN RESOURCES

- Reviewing employment contracts for future years to improve clarity, consistency, and competitiveness
- Planning for alternative staffing scenarios including multiple vs. single elected Editors-in-Chief
- Designing training and policies to maintain a healthy, inclusive, effective organizational culture



To learn more, visit [thefulcrum.ca](https://thefulcrum.ca) or  
reach out anytime at  
[president@thefulcrum.ca](mailto:president@thefulcrum.ca)

