SUO BY-ELECTION 2023/2024

Rishan Pfaender

My name is Rishan Pfaender, and I am a 4th year Mechanical Engineering student, running for the position of Faculty of Applied Science Representative. I hope to join the Board of the Students' Union of UBC Okanagan to create a positive impact on my community by volunteering and sharing my core values.

Being born in Augsburg Germany and living in the US, the UK, and now Canada has allowed me to meet many people from around the world and has provided me with a strong appreciation for different cultures. It is very important to me to celebrate the diversity found within our community and to promote the importance of awareness for marginalized communities.

One of my hobbies growing up was martial arts, I started training in Taekwondo at age 7 and trained for 7 years, when I moved to Canada, I started training in Karate and continued this for 5 years. For me, martial arts taught me many lessons, with two standing out as lessons I constantly remind myself of. The first is that by giving your all and having an absolute dedication to something, any goal is achievable. The second is that it costs you nothing to be a good person, in competition or day-to-day life it is important to treat others with respect and compassion.

I graduated with my IB Diploma from R.E. Mountain Secondary School and have always regarded education as the key to success. Through my time at UBC Okanagan, I have experienced the difficulties students face when it comes to financial burdens from increased living fees and tuition fees, struggles of maintaining a healthy work-life balance as well as struggles for accessibility to resources on campus in terms of food options, housing, and mental health services, etc. I believe that students pursuing a higher education for their betterment and the betterment of society should be well supported by the institutions that we are a part of. I hope to address these issues if I am to stand as the Faculty of Applied Science Representative.

Rishan Pfaender
Candidate for Faculty of Applied Science
Student Representative