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**Tuesday, February 2, 2016  
Council Chambers, University Hall**

**LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2015-18)**

**2015-18/1**            **SPEAKERS BUSINESS**

**2015-18/2**            **PRESENTATIONS**

**2015-18/3**            **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**2015-18/4**            **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT**

**2015-18/5**            **QUESTION PERIOD**

**2015-18/5a**            *Councillor Christensen to Vice President Bondarchuk:*  
Could the Vice President please provide students' council with a written update on the purpose and need for the increase to the student membership fee? In addition, what, if any, consultation has been completed with the student body regarding this increase in students' fees and the benefits the students will receive?

**2015-18/5b**            *Vice President Bondarchuk's Response to Councillor Christensen's question.*

Please see LA 15-18.01

**2015-18/6**            **OPEN FORUM**

**2015-18/7**            **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2015-18/7a**            CHRISTENSEN MOVES to appoint Sam Alzaman as Chief Tribune and Ritika Banerjee as Associate Chief Tribune of the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board, on the recommendation of the D.I.E. Board Selection Committee.

**2015-18/7b**            CHRISTENSEN MOVES to appoint the follow students to the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board on the recommendation of the D.I.E. Board Selection Committee:

Pranidhi Baddam  
Landon Haynes  
Alin Florea  
Dylan Gibbs  
Jonathan Cheng

**2015-18/8**            **GENERAL ORDERS**

- 2015-18/8h** PACHES MOTIONS to appoint one member of Students' Council to the Audit Committee.
- 2015-18/8i** RAHMAN MOVES to, upon the recommendation of Policy committee, approve the second reading for a Students in Governance policy based on the approved first principles.
- Please see LA 15-18.02
- 2015-18/9** **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2015-18/9j** Councillor Patrick's Resignation from the Audit Committee.
- Please see LA 15-18.03
- 2015-18/9k** VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE Report.
- Please see LA 15-18.04
- 2015-18/9l** VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL Report.
- Please see LA 15-18.05
- 2015-18/9m** PRESIDENT Report.
- Please see LA 15-18.06



February 2, 2016

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Membership Fee Increase Proposal

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Fellow members of Council,

I am submitting this information as a response to Councillor Christensen's written question on the motion to increase membership fees. A further explanation will be covered in debate of the motion, but I hope to provide some background prior to the meeting.

The primary purpose for the increase to our fee is to fund wage increases, in accordance with the increase to the living wage the Alberta Government has outlined. They are rolling out step-by-step increases until they hit their target of \$15 an hour in 2018. In the same fashion, I have proposed an increase to our membership fee that will gradually go up concurrently with increases to the living wage.

I have spent the past few months working on this file with the General Manager, Human Resources Manager, and a number of the core management whose units this will most closely affect. When projecting the impact this will have on the Students' Union, we calculated an estimated increase of \$1,000,000 to our operating budget by the end of the third year. We are planning for 50-60% of this difference to be covered by the increase to the membership fee, with the remainder being offset by department efficiencies and moderate increases to prices in our businesses, in line with our competitors' prices.

In simplest terms, the increase is needed because an increase to a \$15 living wage in Alberta is not a decision made by us; it is compulsory under legislation, and as we provide many opportunities for students through employment and services, the Executive Committee believes that we cannot in good conscience reduce or eliminate any department to fund the increase in wages. During peak season (September through April), we have approximately 300 staff. 65% of them are being paid below \$15 an hour, and of those being paid under \$15 an hour, 80% are students. It is presumed that minimum wage will increase in annual steps over the next three years, which is the reason behind a three-year plan for the increases. We will also be completing a re-evaluation of compensation tiers during this time, to have a more long-term strategy for paying staff who are employed under us for many years. Having such a plan is a strong sign of financial stability as we enter a negotiation year with our staff's employment union, CUPE Local 1368. Future years of Students' Council are not explicitly bound to this plan, and they may choose to rescind or amend this motion if the Alberta Government decides to delay or amend their plans.

I have consulted sufficiently with Council's Finance Committee on the matter, and they have had access to our compensation strategy prior to making the decision to recommend this change to

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**Cody Bondarchuk**, *Vice President Operations and Finance*

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Council. I have not seen the need for future consultation outside of elected representatives, because the increase in staff wages is not a policy decision on our end, but rather a legislative requirement placed on all Alberta employers by the provincial government. Unlike governments, we are not permitted to run a deficit in our operating budget, so we cannot raise staff wages and find funding for it in future years. The increase to the living wage is also permanent, and will require a long-term solution by way of this membership fee increase, rather than drawing down our reserves and investments as we would for a one-time project (e.g., the recent building renovation). Additionally, Bylaw legislates a referendum to be held for any annual membership fee increase in excess of 15%, and this proposed change will amount to a 7.7% increase each year, well within the threshold for Council to approve it.

I look forward to the debate at Council, and any further questions any of you may have on the motion.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cody Bondarchuk', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cody Bondarchuk

## LA 15-18.02

### Proposed Second Reading - Students in Governance Policy

1. That the Students' Union shall advocate that the University act fairly and equitably toward undergraduate student representatives and student group representatives, as they ought to any member of the University community.
2. That the Students' Union shall advocate for increased training and support for undergraduate student representatives.
3. That the Students' Union shall advocate for appropriate and fair academic accommodations for student representatives.
4. That the Students' Union shall advocate against the elimination of undergraduate student representative positions at any level unless doing so has direct benefits to students.
5. That the Students' Union uphold the University to its obligation to consult student representatives on any issue academic, administrative, operational or otherwise that impacts students.
6. That the Students' Union encourage faculties and departments to engage and support their student organizations, provided their independence is not perceived to be compromised and they continue to be driven by students.
7. That the Students' Union shall actively communicate to the University the value of student representatives, and student representative groups in collegial governance and effective decision making for our campus community.
8. That the Students' Union shall act to reduce barriers to student participation in University governance, especially for underrepresented groups.
9. That the Students' Union take steps to ensure that University committees provide value for student representatives and best utilize their role as a voice for students.
10. That the Students' Union celebrate the hard work done by undergraduate student representatives across our campuses.

### Approved First Principles

1. Undergraduate students know their needs best.
2. The undergraduate population at the University of Alberta is diverse in its background and composition.
3. Some University and Faculty policies already give undergraduate students and student groups representative capacity on certain committees and boards.
4. There are over 600 representative positions filled by undergraduates at the University of Alberta.
5. Undergraduate student associations are autonomous organizations that exist to advocate for the students they represent.
6. Faculty and department support is appreciated by the Students' Union and student organizations.
7. Student representatives' activities supplement the educational experiences of students.
8. Undergraduate students are required to balance their academic, personal, and professional lives with their representative activities.

9. Decisions taken with the best interests of the institution in mind must also note the interests of its largest body, undergraduate students.
10. Undergraduate feedback is required and essential to inform University policies of their impact towards students on campus.

Dear Students' Council

Please accept this as my letter of resignation from Audit Committee. Due to a combination of academic and non-academic circumstances arising this semester I will be unable to devote the time to Audit Committee that it deserves. My time with Audit was absolutely wonderful, and I would highly recommend being on this committee if you can.

Sincerely,  
Councillor Patrick

February 2nd, 2016

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2015/2016

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

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### **Advocacy**

**President Khinda** and I, along with all the Residence Association executives attended the January **Residence Advisory Committee** meeting. We were notified in December that this meeting will be the meeting where all members will reach a consensus and decide the future of the fee collection process. Before the meeting, we had a conversation with the Registrar Office, and I have followed up on the topic of having **Registrar Office (Financial Services Department)** physically collect the fee like they do for our SU membership and Faculty Association fees. I was informed by Residence Services before the meeting with the RO that they have already communicated about this issue, and they said to RS that it was "impossible" to have RO collect the fee. Interestingly, this was not what I have heard from the meetings with the RO when discussing this issue. I am aware that it is a problem that the two systems (RO and RS) don't communicate with each other, but I was also told that it could be worked out like how they worked out a solution for the U-Pass, and it will just take time. Bringing this update forward at RAC, RS was still not convinced that this is the solution, which I then suggest to have all three parties sit down and talk this through, as I am hearing different messages from both parties. In that meeting, we did decide on a "solution", but **it was definitely NOT the solution we wanted**. RS has informed us that they have chatted with their bosses (higher administration in Ancillary Services) about this issue, and said they have already made a decision to adopt the community league model. This means that as of **May 1st, RS will cease any physical collection activity for Residence Associations**, and the student representatives will have to go out and solicit membership fees on their own (opt-in method). This leaves Residence Associations in a panic state, fearing about their budget for the following year as this may create a shortfall that is big enough that will lead to associations dissolving. I have urged them to reconsider, and brought up the alternate proposal (suggesting that RS should continue collecting fees with loosen oversight while we work out a solution with RO) that I said I would bring forward in the January meeting. Unfortunately, I was told the night before the meeting that my proposal will not be added to the agenda as it is "redundant" and "does not address any of the previous concerns raised". We are currently doing our best to negotiate with the University and inform them that this is absolutely a terrible idea, and most importantly, this was NOT decided by students.

### **Events**

**Movies for Mental Health** will be happening on **February 8th, 2016 at the Myer Horowitz theatre**. I am super excited to see how this plays out as many of our partners (**Human Resources Office and Dean of Students**) had spent a tremendous amount of effort trying to put this event together. The event will be open to the public and no registration will be required. It will be an exciting opportunity to discuss mental health via film, as we have never done this before on University campus.

**Wellness Summit** took place this weekend at Lister Centre, it was great to see representative from all 27 institutions across Alberta attend this conference to talk more about our strategy moving



forward with the Alberta Provincial Mental Health Strategy. A recurring theme came up when we were asked to break out into different groups to discuss about our focus in the upcoming 6 months. Many of us resonated with the need to have a centralized focus in advocacy, sustainable funding, and an inventory of experts/programs across the province to prevent redundancy and recreation of already existing programs. I am looking forward to see what plans will be generated as action items after this weekend!

For homework purposes (NURS 498) as well as a personal interest, I have attended **Stephen Lewis' talk on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals** this past Friday as a part of **International Week**. I was absolutely blown away by how charismatic Mr. Lewis is, and he was critical and on point about the current global issues that require major awareness.



Cheerios,

Vivian Kwan  
Vice President Student Life 2015-2016  
(Electronically Submitted)

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council (for January 19, 2016 meeting)

## **Introduction**

Hey friends,

An easy and quick read for you all today, it's been a busy two weeks as usual. Hopefully you are all doing well in your classes and feeling well. Just remember that there are only two weeks until Reading Week so hang in there.

## **Municipal**

The ESA received a reply to the letter that we sent before the break to the City regarding transit. The letter from the mayor notified us of some of the safety measures that had been installed for the new Metro line as well as an affirmation that we will continue to be major stakeholders in future transit development and implementation.

## **Provincial**

Myself and President Khinda were in Calgary for a CAUS meeting a week and a half ago to talk about some administrative things (sending the ED to the upcoming CASA Advocacy Week), as well talking about some larger issues (financial aid, tuition). There was a lot of discussion on the major topics of financial aid and tuition, and sadly I don't think I have enough time or space in this report to outline everything. That said, I decided that it would be a good idea to bring the discussion to you. I'll be giving a very short presentation on what we talked about and some of the questions we asked ourselves. I'm hoping I won't talk much so that we can have a discussion about some of the questions because I would love to hear some feedback from Council.

Other than that, I will be having a

## **Federal**

I'm currently working with the National Advocacy Team to do a review of the campaigns that CASA has run in the past and am looking forward to the results. We will be doing interviews with those people that were involved in the campaign soon.

## **Internal Students' Union**

I've been spending a good amount of time lately talking with potential candidates for the VPX position. I have had a few one-on-one meetings with people as well as hosting a job shadow day

on the 1<sup>st</sup>. I'm very happy and excited with this batch of candidates and regardless of the outcome, the VPX position will be in good hands.

That's all folks, sorry for the short report but if you have any questions let me know!  
Gredo shot first,



Dylan

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2015-2016

**From:** Navneet Khinda

**Re:** Report to Students' Council, for February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

Hello Council!

Read on for a synopsis of the last two weeks:

### **1. Meeting with SU Candidates**

I'm not having a specific job-shadowing day, but I've been meeting with a lot of potential candidates for all the SU exec positions. I'm confident this will be an exciting election season!

### **2. Alumni Association**

*Meeting with Sean Price* – The exec team met with Sean Price, who is returning to the Alumni Association as the Executive Director, and the Associate VP of Alumni Relations at the U of A. We're very excited to have him back!

*Alumni Council Meeting* – Alumni Council held their meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. New bylaws were passed and we received a presentation about the PLLC.

### **3. CAUS meeting in Calgary**

On the weekend, we joined our CAUS colleagues in Calgary. Over two days, we discussed many items and you can ask either VP Hanwell or myself for more details. We spent a significant amount of time discussing how we'd like the student financial aid system to change as well as how our advocacy on tuition and fees should change. I will be working on some amendments to our Student Financial Aid paper.

### **4. GFC**

The most interesting part of GFC was the discussion about potential changes to governance. VP Rahman and I emphasized the need for equitable participation and how it's important the GFC have substantial conversations.

### **5. Bylaw changes**

Some of you may be aware of a proposal to change Bylaw 8100 to allow Faculty Associations greater flexibility to defy SU political policy. This was discussed at the last Bylaw committee meeting as well as Governance Review Task Force today. If it comes to Council, I look forward to a robust debate! For the record, I am largely opposed to such a change but I am open to fresh perspectives.

## **6. MNIF TOR progress**

We are in the final stages of creating the Terms of Reference for the new MNIF Oversight committee. I am pleased with the work we have done. I will be bringing this as an item for discussion at our next Council meeting and later this week I may send you a document to get your feedback. There are certainly tradeoffs here, but I believe I can make the case to students as to why we should try this model.

## **7. SU-Registrar**

At this meeting with senior staff at the Registrar's office, we discussed course load for open studies students and the Student Decisions Project the RO is part of. We also got updates on some of our asks:

- *Beartracks in French*: While they agree this is something that should be worked on, they don't have the capacity to have Beartracks available in French, at least not yet. The RO is considering updates to their software and this change is possible for the next iteration of Beartracks. Currently, they will work with Faculté St. Jean to ensure students can use Beartracks appropriately.
- *Addition of third gender on application form*: This is fantastic news! Right now, this option is only available on a paper application to the U of A. The next step is to incorporate that into Beartracks and then the university will work on getting rid of reliance on "gender" as a metric in their data collection. It's important to note that government still relies on collecting gender via Apply Alberta.
- *Scholarships in French*: I've been asking the administration to create the capability for students to apply to scholarships in French. They can easily make this change on the application side, but the adjudication side will provide greater challenges in terms of personnel and their skill set. There is no progress on this at this point I imagine the RO will need to work with CSJ on this.
- *Location indicator*: Good news! RO noted that they can make a change to course listings such that all courses offered at CSJ will say "CSJ", similar to the location indicator for courses at Augustana. This will prevent students from enrolling in the wrong courses!

## **8. Residences**

*Graduate Residence* – VP Kwan and I met with a former executive of the graduate residence association to gain some insight into current issues.

*RAC* – The Residence Advisory Committee meeting was tense, to say the least. VP Kwan and I were there along with numerous execs representing various Residence Associations. The take-away from this meeting is that Residence Services made a unilateral decision to stop collecting Residence Association fees as of May 2016. We are very upset by this decision and we believe this will have serious and negative repercussions. I will be following up on this file with senior administration.

*Lister updates* – the committee work has been progressing very smoothly. At this point, we have consulted Residence Services and I will be meeting with Dean of Students, Robin Overall soon to

deliver a final package. I would like to have elections for the new residence association before April, but we'll see how far we get.

### **9. Meeting with Turpin**

I met with President Turpin for a brief chat. I updated him on some of our key files, including residence.

### **10. Gateway interview**

We all had interviews with the Gateway this week regarding progress on our goals. I'm very proud of how far our executive team has come this year and all the good work we've done!

### **11. Random**

I want to do something for PI Day! Ideas??

That's all for now! See you soon,

Nav



**Navneet Khinda**  
President 2015-2016  
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