Students' Union Governance

DISCOVER GOVERNANCE

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION

SU Governance

Post-Secondary Learning Act

- All governing powers derive from the PSLA (formerly the Universities Act)

- Charges students associations with providing for the administration of student affairs and promotion of student welfare

- Allows Students' Council to establish committees to handle student affairs and collect fees from students

Governance in a Nutshell
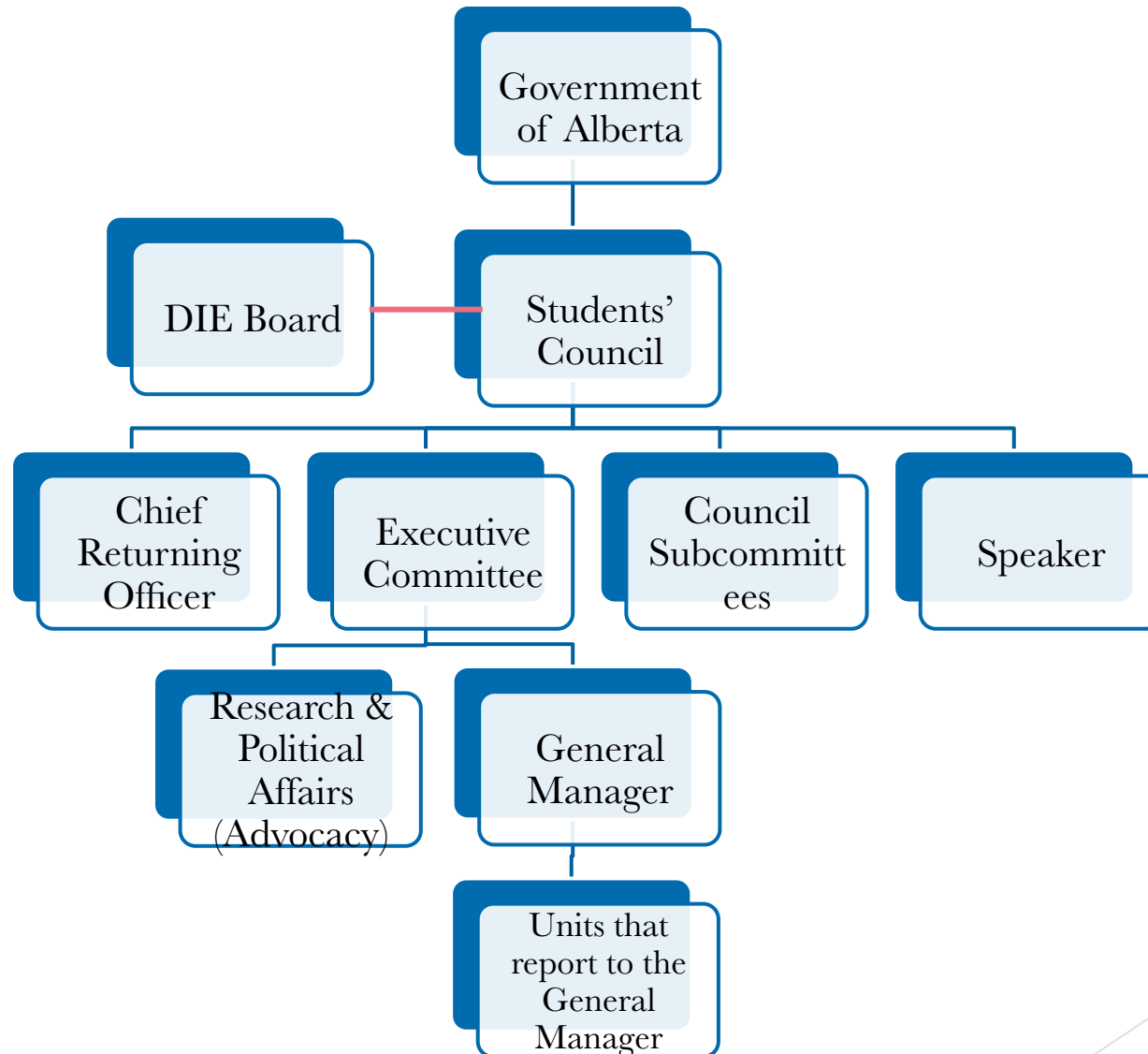
SU Strategic Plan

- Helps define the SU's long-term direction and priorities

- Mission: to serve, represent, and engage U of A undergraduate students to enrich their experience.

- Vision: a future where students feel accepted and welcome, thrive in a vibrant intellectual community, are empowered and confident, and contribute to society as active citizens and effective leaders.

Values

Do what's right, not what's easy
- We believe that acting with integrity and respect is essential to an open, collaborative, and democratic organization.

Inspire change for the world
- We strive to create a community where effective involvement shows students that they can change the world.

Act with unbridled compassion
- We help students make the most of any challenges they face by providing an inclusive and caring environment.

Always keep moving
- We adapt and innovate to meet the challenges and opportunities of our dynamic student environment.

Plan for tomorrow
- We act with future students in mind by making sustainable choices.

SU Bylaw and Policy

Bylaws

- Created by Bylaw Committee and ratified by Council
- Set out basic legal structure and operational parameters of the SU

Political Policy

- Statements of principle set out by Students' Council that direct the Executive Committee in their advocacy Efforts

Operational Policy

- Regulations that govern the day-to-day operations of the SU

SU Bylaw and Policy

- Example:
  - *Bylaw 100:* Outlines the overall structure and procedures of Students' Council
  - *Bylaw 8100*: Governs how we oversee Faculty Associations

- Example:
  - Mandatory non-instructional fee policy: outlines what the Executive must advocate for when fees are being considered
  - Public transit policy: outlines how the Executive must advocate in regards to the U-Pass

Bill to Bylaw

IDEA
- Research
- Consultation
- Edits & Drafting

FIRST READING
- Council debates principles of idea

DRAFTING
- Bylaw/Policy Committee creates first draft

SECOND READING
- Council debates new bylaw/policy
- May go back to committee several times

BYLAW/ POLICY
- The idea has now become a bylaw or policy
- Same process used for amendments

Elections

- SU Executives, Board of Governors Representative, and Students' Council are elected directly by students every March

- Overseen by the Chief Returning Officer, who is an employee of the Students' Union and reports to Students' Council

Students' Council

- Highest governing body of the Students' Union
- Composed of representatives from all undergraduate faculties
- Six standing committees
- Delegates power to the Executive Committee on administrative and business matters
- Keeps Executive Committee accountable

SU Committees
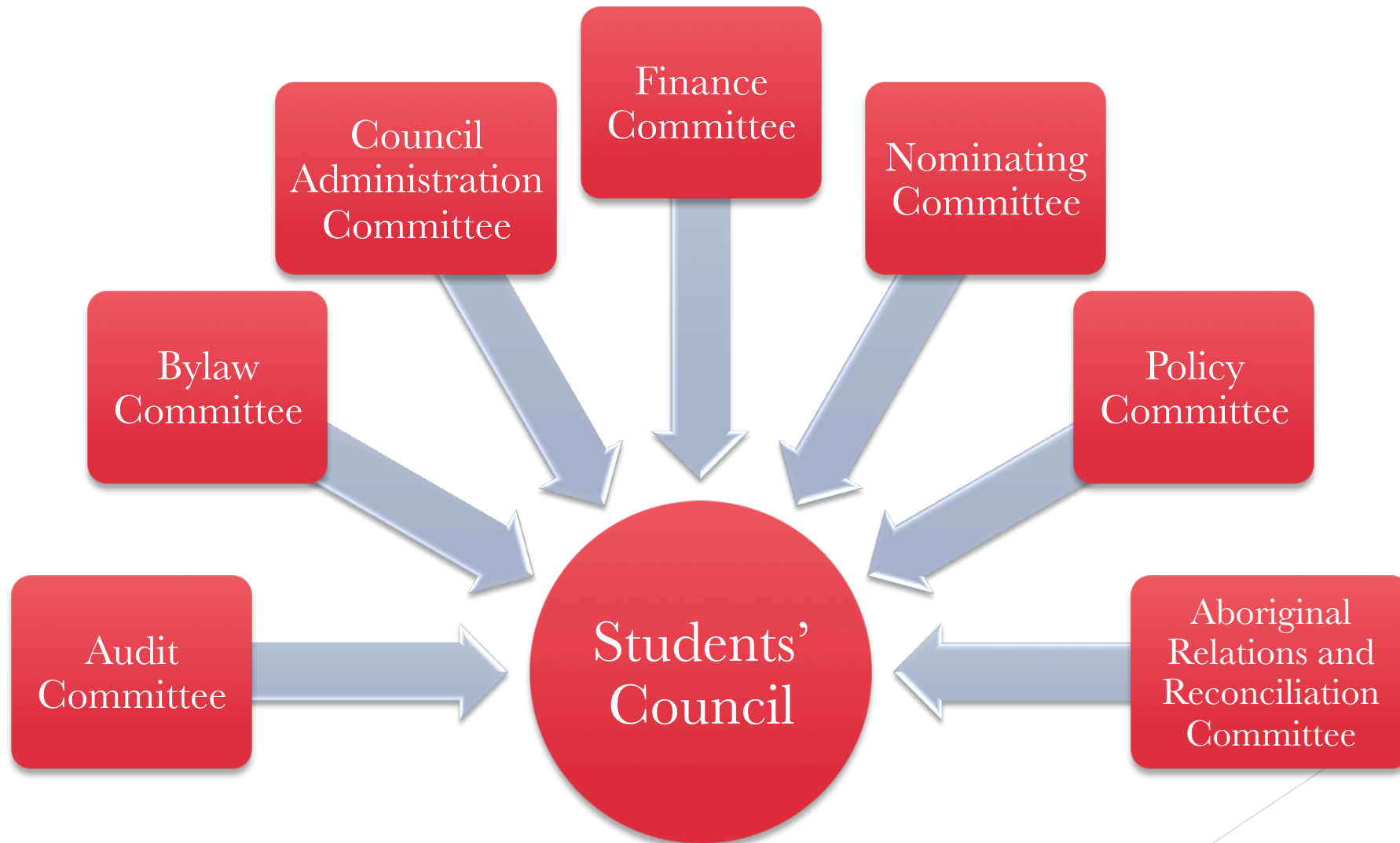
Executive Committee
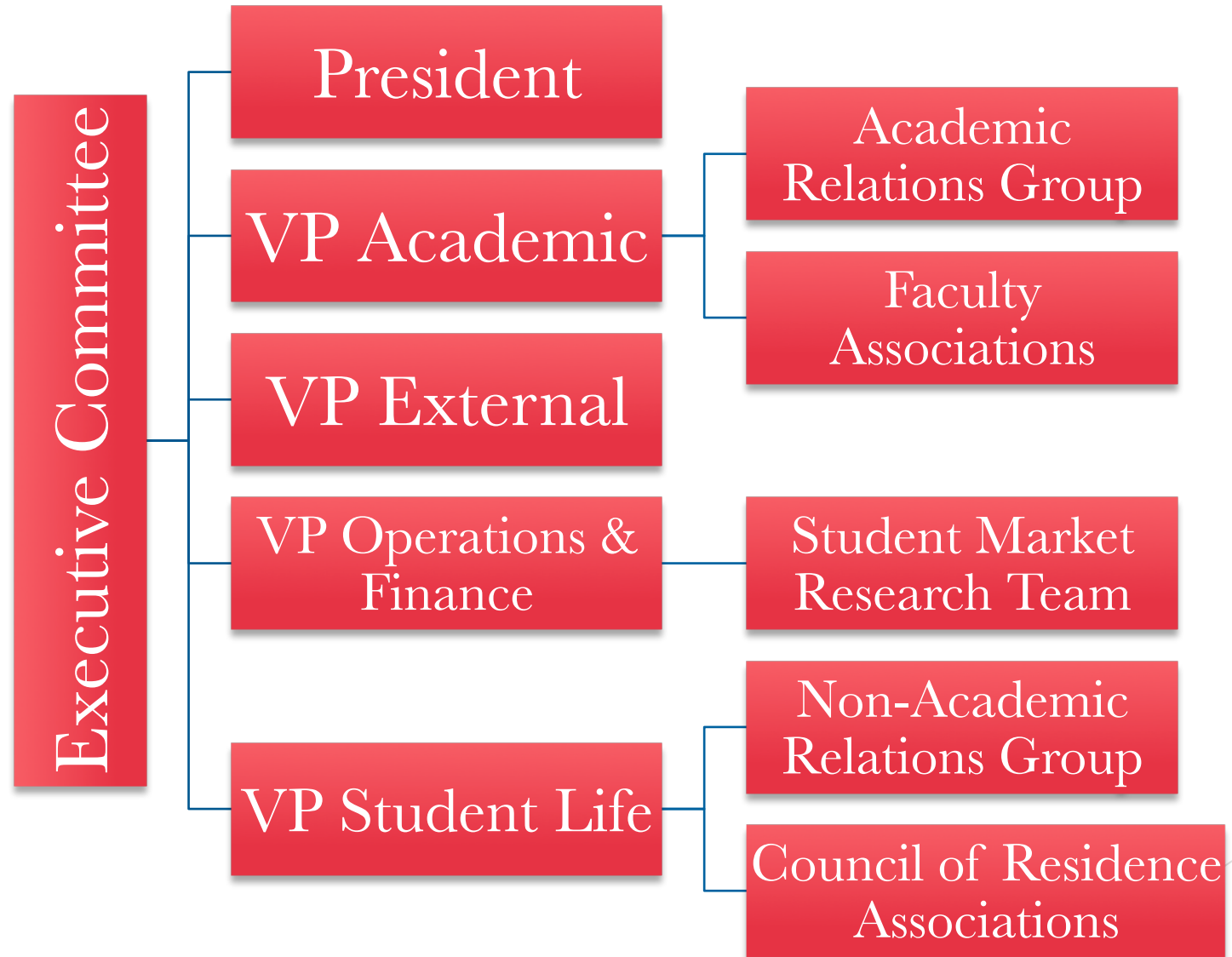
President

Primary Spokesperson of the SU

- Sits on the Board of Governors
- Talks to media and attends events

Supervises SU Affairs

- Chairs Executive Committee meetings
- Oversees projects of the Vice Presidents and tracks their progress
- Directs the activities of the General Manager

Heads Major Initiatives

- Chairs the Strategic Planning Committee
- Coordinates efforts on major projects like Fall Reading Week

Vice President Academic

Internal Advocacy

- Sits on the General Faculties Council and most of its standing committees
- Coordinates advocacy activities as they relate to academic affairs

Faculty Associations

- Chairs the Council of Faculty Associations
- Responsible for ensuring FA compliance with Bylaw 8100
- Gives advocacy support on major faculty issues

Academic Relations Group

- Advisory committee to the VPA
- Provides student input on advocacy activities
- Members act as delegates of the VPA to some committees

Vice President External

External Advocacy

- Sits on CAUS and CASA
- Advocates to Federal, Provincial, and Municipal governments
- Coordinates all external advocacy efforts

Council of Alberta University Students

- Chair of CAUS for the 2014/15 academic year
- Responsible for advocating on issues that affect all post secondary students in Alberta

Vice President Operations & Finance

Operations
- Oversees the operation of SU businesses
- Chairs Executive Committee and directs General Manager in absence of President

Finance
- Oversees Executive Committee budget processes

SMaRT
- Student Market Research Team
- A focus group to improve SU businesses

Vice President Student Life

Non-Academic Advocacy
- Directs advocacy efforts on non-academic issues that impact students
- Works with RHA and Residence Services

Events
- Initiates and directs some large events

Student Groups
- Coordinates advocacy for student groups
- Communicates with the Dean of Students regarding student group issues

SU Operations

SU Operations

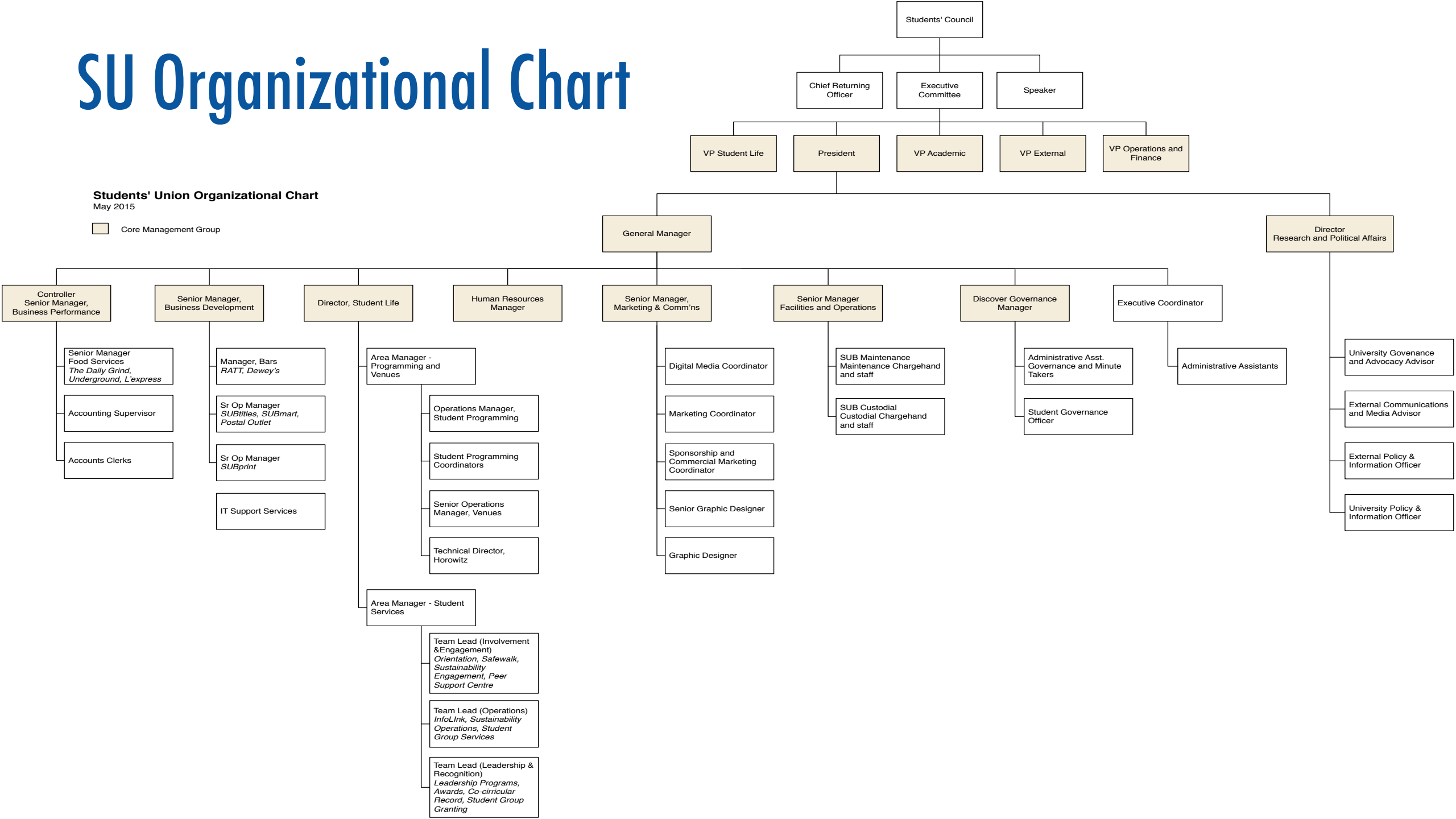The SU has a large budget and staff structure to run its operations.

- Businesses
- Services
- Support Staff

SU Organizational Chart

Students' Union Organizational Chart
May 2015

☐ Core Management Group

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                                                    Students' Council
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                    Chief Returning                 Executive                         Speaker
                        Officer                     Committee
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| VP Student Life | President | VP Academic | VP External | VP Operations and Finance |

General Manager | **Director Research and Political Affairs**

Core Management Group (row of managers under General Manager):

- Controller / Senior Manager, Business Performance
- Senior Manager, Business Development
- Director, Student Life
- Human Resources Manager
- Senior Manager, Marketing & Comm'ns
- Senior Manager Facilities and Operations
- Discover Governance Manager
- Executive Coordinator

Controller / Senior Manager, Business Performance
- Senior Manager Food Services — *The Daily Grind, Underground, L'express*
- Accounting Supervisor
- Accounts Clerks

Senior Manager, Business Development
- Manager, Bars — *RATT, Dewey's*
- Sr Op Manager — *SUBtitles, SUBmart, Postal Outlet*
- Sr Op Manager — *SUBprint*
- IT Support Services

Director, Student Life
- Area Manager - Programming and Venues
  - Operations Manager, Student Programming
  - Student Programming Coordinators
  - Senior Operations Manager, Venues
  - Technical Director, Horowitz
- Area Manager - Student Services
  - Team Lead (Involvement & Engagement) — *Orientation, Safewalk, Sustainability Engagement, Peer Support Centre*
  - Team Lead (Operations) — *InfoLInk, Sustainability Operations, Student Group Services*
  - Team Lead (Leadership & Recognition) — *Leadership Programs, Awards, Co-cirricular Record, Student Group Granting*

Senior Manager, Marketing & Comm'ns
- Digital Media Coordinator
- Marketing Coordinator
- Sponsorship and Commercial Marketing Coordinator
- Senior Graphic Designer
- Graphic Designer

Senior Manager Facilities and Operations
- SUB Maintenance — Maintenance Chargehand and staff
- SUB Custodial — Custodial Chargehand and staff

Discover Governance Manager
- Administrative Asst. Governance and Minute Takers
- Student Governance Officer

Executive Coordinator
- Administrative Assistants

Director Research and Political Affairs
- University Govenance and Advocacy Advisor
- External Communications and Media Advisor
- External Policy & Information Officer
- University Policy & Information Officer

Businesses

Most of the SU's revenue comes from it's businesses

- Restaurants/cafes
- Catering
- Printing
- Retail

Services

The SU provides many services to students

- Events
- First Year Orientation
- Student Group Services
- Counseling and Peer Support
- Job/Career Assistance
- Granting and Scholarships

Support Staff

The SU's governance, advocacy, and business activities would not be possible without a large number of support staff

- Administrative Support

- Governance Support

- Research and Political Affairs

- Marketing and Communications

- Accounting and Personnel Management

- Event Planning

Decision Making

SU Style

Making Decisions